Court of Appeals blocks government lifestyle check

Story on PAGE A2

WHAT'S INSIDE

- **2 solons dare Tatad to run**
  NEWS /A2
- **'Cha-cha a ploy to extend terms'**
  NEWS/A2
- **Bali bombing suspect says he was tortured**
  WORLD/A10

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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

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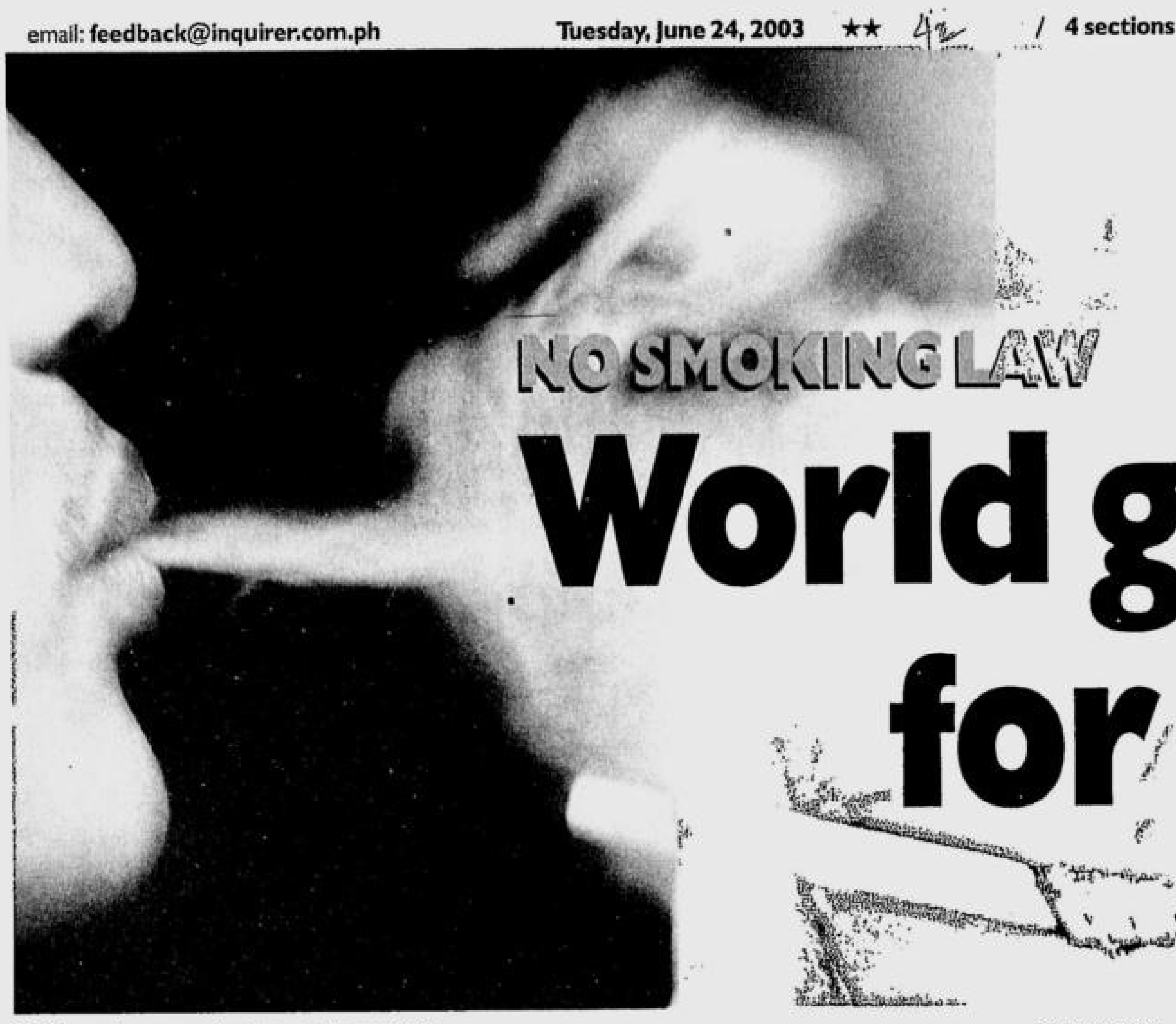
BELOW
18
YEARS

PRESIDENT Macapagal signs tough anti-smoking law which Malacañang claims is a landmark legislation in the world.
EDWIN BACASMAS



WILL smokers eventually go up in smoke?
EDWIN BACASMAS

NO SMOKING LAW

World gets smaller for RP smoker

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday signed a tough new law regulating the use of tobacco products, including the phaseout of all tobacco advertising in five years and a total ban on smoking in enclosed public places, including schools.

When the Tobacco Regulation Act takes effect 15 days after its publication in newspapers of general circulation, the country will become the first in the world to comply with World Health Organization anti-smoking requirements, Palace officials said.

Republic Act No. 9211 affects not only over 34 million Filipino smokers, but also about 500,000 tobacco farmers, mostly in the Ilocos region. It also absolutely prohibits the sale of all tobacco products to minors.

The measure survived a decade in the legislative mill, according to its main sponsor, Sen. Juan Flavier, a former health secretary.

Flavier said it was the support of the tobacco bloc that proved crucial to the passage of the measure.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric D. Singson said: "This is the most difficult bill that I co-authored and I did it with a heavy heart because I know the 500,000 farmers that depend on this crop would be affected."

The Ilocos region accounts for close to 80 percent of the country's total tobacco production, with nearly half of that coming from Ilocos Sur.

Singson and the powerful tobacco bloc finally relented after the government committed to allocate funds to assist tobacco farmers by improving irrigation and helping them shift to other crops such as rice and vegetables.

"It's not the end of the world for the Ilocano farmers because the law also provides them with funding to shift to replacement crops or to explore other uses for tobacco such as pesticides," Flavier said.

Two other industries affected by the new law, advertising and media, won't enjoy a similar safety net. Instead, they will have the benefit of a five-year phaseout.

Between 2007 and 2008, the government will start banning all cigarette ads in print, television, radio and billboards. The ban will also cover the placement of logos on consumer items (except ash trays and lighters). All promo materials would then be limited to point-of-sale locations or adult-only facilities.

Ms Macapagal, who surprised Flavier with a cake to celebrate his birthday yesterday, commended the senator for his relentless anti-smoking crusade, specifically the "Yosi Kadiri" campaign he conducted when he headed the Department of Health.

"It is my pet bill and each time Congress opens, I always make it a point to make it Senate Bill No. 1," Flavier said.

Flavier said growing public awareness that smoke-related diseases were the leading cause of death and illness also helped in the passage of the anti-smoking law.

WORLD/ A16

'Dirty Harry' gets marching orders

By Gil Cabacungan Jr. and Michael Lim Ubac

MANILA Mayor Alfredo Lim is now the presidential adviser on illegal drugs upon the recommendation of Sen. Robert Z. Barbers, the anti-drugs czar, according to presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye.

At a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang yesterday, Barbers further moved to spread the powers of the "Four Aces" when he proposed that the other "aces"—ex-Col. Rey Jaylo and ex-Maj. Lucio Margallo—be named directors in the special operations group of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA).

(Barbers is not too happy with the "Four Aces" moniker, which refers to former members of Manila's Finest, including himself and Lim, who went after drug syndicates in the 1990s, because people might think they were singers instead of drug hounds).

Barbers also wanted a full deck instead of just "Four Aces" as he pushed for the recruitment of more senior policemen and up to 100 civilian agents to beef up the government's revitalized campaign against drug dealers and international drug traffickers.

One of the possible additions to

DIRTY/ A9

Ex-mayor's son, Japanese, Chinese fall in war on drugs

By Christian V. Esguerra and Jhunnex Napallacan

THE PHILIPPINE Drug Enforcement Agency has stepped up its campaign against illegal drugs in the wake of moves by politicians to take the limelight and lead the war against drugs.

PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. yesterday announced the arrest of a former Mindanao town mayor's son, a Chinese woman and a Japanese man in separate buy-bust operations.

The arrests of Jose Victor Sison, Hong Shan Shan and Kenichi Takahashi are considered a breakthrough in the massive campaign that until last week could only come up with small-time pushers.

In Cebu, authorities finally arrested the alleged high-level drug pusher who was the subject of the bungled operation of the National Bureau of Investigation-Central Visayas (NBI-7) last year that left five resort workers wounded.

Roberto "Obet" Hegremosa, a native of Barili town in Cebu, was arrested at about 9:30 p.m. Sunday during a buy-bust operation in the house of a friend in St. Michael Village, Barangay Banilad.

In Davao City, at least 14 killings were recorded in a span of one week, 11 of which were attributed to

EX-MAYOR'S/ A9

SUSPECTED Chinese drug dealer covers her face during her presentation to the media at Camp Crame Monday.
JOAN BONDOC

Christine willing to subject 2 daughters to DNA tests

By Blanche Rivera

ANYTIME, any day, anywhere.

The reported lover of former Antipolo Bishop Crisostomo Yalung yesterday said she was willing to subject her two children to DNA tests to prove they were sired by the bishop.

The catch: Yalung would have to take the DNA test, too.

Christine, who claims her two kids are Yalung's, also said she would work out the requirements for child support as soon as she recuperates from delivering their second child (a daughter, not a son, as earlier reported).

Catholic Church officials have yet to acknowledge or deny that Christine's babies had been sired by Yalung, but said that every father has a moral obligation to support his children, even if they were born out of wedlock.

Fr. James Reuter, SJ, head of the Church's National Office of Mass Media, stressed yesterday that the Church was not judging Yalung or saying that he had sired Christine's children.

According to Reuter, the Church believes that if a priest sires a child, he is bound by justice to support his child. The Church steps in only when the priest cannot afford to provide support.

CHRISTINE/ A4

GMA wary, Reyes satisfied with Salamat stand

By Juliet Javellana and TJ Burgonio

A DAY after MILF founder Salamat Hashim denounced terrorism, President Macapagal-Arroyo issued a cautious response that proved more hawkish than that of her own secretary of defense.

"Our will for peace is only matched by our will to defeat terrorism," she said. "In regard to the peace overtures of the MILF, we will respond with a policy of calibrated reciprocation so that terrorist intrusions are effectively checked and civilian communities are not put in harm's way."

The President said the peace overtures from the Moro Islamic Liberation Front came "hand in hand with the discovery of deadly explosives in an MILF area and credible revelations of MILF links with transnational terrorist groups."

"Now is the time for the MILF to cut clean by deed from terrorists, purge its armories of terrorist weapons and engage in earnest peace talks shorn of deception," the President said.

But Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes yesterday hailed Salamat's statement that terrorism was "anathema" to Islam-

GMA/ A16

2 brave Eastern Samar cops reap praise

By Cyrain Cabuenas and Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

QUINAPONDAN, Eastern Samar—Two policemen, who gallantly defended this town's police station and repulsed the attack of 20 heavily armed communist rebels on Sunday, yesterday reaped praise from their superior officers, local officials and town residents.

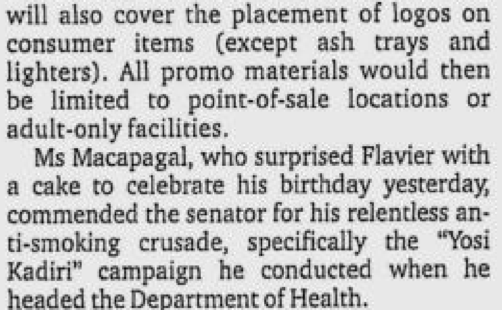
Chief Supt. Dionisio Coloma Jr., police director for Eastern Visayas, said he would recommend to President Macapagal-Arroyo the promotion of Insp. Cayetano Gannaban and PO1 Raul Graza as well as the conferment of the Medalya ng Kagitingan (Medal of Valor) on them.

Coloma said he would also make the same recommendation in the case of PO1 Alexander Villaflor, who was trapped inside the station's bathroom at the height of the fierce gun battle.

"They deserve it (the award). They risked their own lives in defending the station and the town from the attacking NPA (New People's Army) members," Coloma said.

Senior Supt. Edwin Balongay, police provincial director, said the three po-

2 BRAVE/ A16


AKALA KO BA AYAW MO SA PORK?

Ping used up ₱147-M pork fund last year

By Carlito Pablo and Christine O. Avendaño

OPPOSITION Sen. Panfilo "Ping" Lacson, who earlier called for the abolition of the pork barrel system, turned out to have dipped his hand into his own pork barrel last year.

PING/ A16

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Central and Southern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.
SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/06/24/03

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Court blocks gov't 'lifestyle check'

By Volt Contreras and Armand Nocum

THE PRESIDENTIAL Anti-Graft Commission's campaign to conduct a so-called "lifestyle check" on government officials has encountered some legal road blocks.

Yesterday, the Court of Appeals stopped the PAGC from proceeding with its first "lifestyle" case involving a tax official being investigated for owning two luxury vehicles.

The CA's 14th Division granted the petition for a temporary restraining order by Antonio Montemayor who has a Director II rank at the Bureau of Internal Revenue's Regional Office No. 4.

A copy of the TRO was sent to the INQUIRER by Montemayor's lawyer Bonifacio M. Sison.

Montemayor was ordered by the PAGC on May 19 to explain within 10 days why he failed to disclose that he owned a 1997 Toyota Land Cruiser and a 2001 Ford Expedition in his statement of assets and liabilities for 2001 and 2002.

The value of the two vehicles, estimated at P3 million, "appears to be disproportionate" to a Director II's salary and allowances which come up to only about P30,000 a month, PAGC chair Dario Rama said in an interview.

Instead of answering the PAGC, however, Montemayor went to the CA where he questioned the commission's authority to conduct such an investigation. He asked the court to nullify Rama's order.

The petition challenged the PAGC's jurisdiction over the BIR director, saying that under the Constitution only the Ombudsman had the power to investigate and file complaints against erring public officials.

'Cannot duplicate'

Executive Order No. 12, which President Macapagal-Arroyo issued in April 2001 to create the PAGC, "cannot duplicate" the Ombudsman's authority, the petition argued.

Rama, meanwhile, said a counterpart criminal charge would be filed against Montemayor with the Office of the Ombudsman.

He said the public will not have long to wait for justice in the case of the BIR officials, including Montemayor, who are among the first presidential appointees to be subjected to the lifestyle check.

He said the commission would be wrapping up its investigation and making recommendations on the Montemayor case by next week.

He said the cases of four other top BIR officials—Assistant Commissioner for Enforcement Service Percival T. Salazar, Quezon City Regional Director Edwin Fabella, Makati Regional Director Lucien E. Sayuno and Assistant Regional Director Corazon Pangcog—would be resolved before the end of July.

"Justice delayed is justice denied," said Rama, expressing an all-too-familiar plaint by a frustrated public over the country's slow justice system.

14 officials

The case against Montemayor and several other BIR officials is being keenly watched by a public grown skeptical of the government's will to win the battle against graft and corruption.

The PAGC initially set out to investigate 14 BIR officials but only five of them turned out to have been appointed by the President.

The cases of those who were not presidential appointees and, therefore, were not covered by the PAGC have been forwarded to the Ombudsman's office.

The nine other BIR officials facing graft investigations are Ernesto Kho, Nieto Racho, Rosemarie Ramos Ragasa, Beverly S. Milo, Arnel A. Bernardo, David Alarcon, Juanito Valdecantos, Aquinaldo L. Miravalles and Nestor Valeroso.

Malacañang ordered the PAGC last year to conduct lifestyle checks on corrupt presidential appointees as part of the government's campaign for good governance and transparency.

Ulla gets witness protection

By Philip C. Tubeza

"I WILL have my revenge."

Roland Ulla, the recently escaped and last of the Abu Sayyaf's 21 hostages from a dive resort in Malaysia, has signed up as a government witness to get back at his captors.

"I had a good life in Malaysia," Ulla told reporters yesterday. "And then because of what the Abu Sayyaf did, I was separated from my family for three years. So I'm willing (to testify)."

Ulla had gone to the Department of Justice and was placed under the Witness Protection Program.

Justice Undersecretary Jose Calida said the former captive was a "very vital and material witness to successfully prosecute this kidnapping incident because he was there from day one."

Government prosecutor Ricardo Cabaron said that with Ulla as a witness, "we have the upper hand" when the hearings finally resume before the Pasig Regional Trial Court this week after being stalled for more than two years.

Abu Sayyaf bandits abducted the 21 tourists and employees from the Sipadan Dive Resort in Palau, Sabah, on April 23, 2000.

Reported leaders of the kidnappers were Ghalib Andang, alias Commander Robot, Ndzmi Saabdulah, alias Commander Gobal, and Radulan Sahiron, alias Putol. Eight of the 39 kidnappers, including Saabdulah, have been arrested, Calida said. All 39 have been charged with kidnapping and serious illegal detention.

Ulla told justice officials there were two Indonesians among the kidnappers, but he did not elaborate.

Carried luggage

The captives were ransomed for millions of dollars over the following year, but Ulla's family could not pay the ransom so he was kept hostage. He finally escaped last June 4, and was found by government forces on June 6.

"The kidnappers made him their all-around (helper). He was their cook and he carried their luggage. He was like their houseboy," Calida said.

Ulla said the bandits included 12-year-old boys who took part in beheading captured soldiers.

The most difficult part of his ordeal, he recalled, was during encounters with the military: "Everybody was shooting everybody. No one cared if the hostages got hit. And then we were whisked off from one place to another. Sometimes we didn't eat for 24 hours."

All he could do, he said, was pray. "I prayed that I would live to see my family again."

Calida said Ulla was scheduled to attend this week's hearing.

The prosecution hoped to enlist another former hostage, Lucrecia Dablo, as a witness, as soon as she could be located. Prosecutor Peter Medalle said three of the nine Malaysians will also be invited.

Medalle added that prosecutors were requesting the Pasig RTC to issue a court order that would allow the Central Bank Zamboanga branch to transfer some $240,000 to Manila "to be used as evidence."

The money was confiscated from two suspected Abu Sayyaf members who were trying to have the currency changed in August 2000. The two have since jumped bail. *With reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP*

Joker tags Cha-cha ploy to extend officials' terms

By Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG "lackeys" should stop dreaming that they can get Congress to amend the 1987 Constitution, Sen. Joker Arroyo said yesterday.

Arroyo said that for one thing, he believes any Senate resolution seeking to amend the Charter would end up being archived.

In an interview, Arroyo said talk of a transition government immediately after Charter change only proved that Malacañang's "hangers-on" were in effect working to extend the terms of office of elected officials including congressmen, senators and the President herself.

"For one cannot have a transition government without first extending the terms of the incumbents who will act as transition officials," Arroyo said in a statement he issued apart from the interview.

"Very smart, very deceptive, but they fool no one," Arroyo said. "The cat is out of the bag."

'Full blast'

Arroyo was reacting to a recent INQUIRER news report that said Malacañang, through presidential adviser on special concerns Norberto Gonzales, has been going "full blast" in pushing for amendments to the Constitution before the end of President Macapagal-Arroyo's term in 2004.

Gonzales was quoted as saying that a transition president would be needed to run things until the new form of government was in place.

Gonzales said he had been tasked to spend the rest of this year focused on getting the process of Charter change going, and he was working to have the amendments passed and ratified in a plebiscite, in time for the May 2004 elections.

Among changes to the Constitution, proponents have been pushing for a change from the presidential to the parliamentary form of government under a federal system.

Arroyo stressed the President had no role to play in the Charter-change initiative as this was solely the purview of Congress.

3 modes

Arroyo said that at the last meeting of the 14-member Senate committee on constitutional amendments, revisions of codes and laws in May, panel chair Sen. Edgardo Angara gave them three modes to consider for amending the Charter.

These were through a constituent assembly, a constitutional convention or a referendum asking the people which of the two modes they favored to effect changes to the Constitution.

Arroyo told the INQUIRER, however, that as of his latest count, "none of the three modes would get the required eight votes" needed to pass the committee.

Which is why any Senate initiative would end up being archived, because the question on the mode of amendment would not get past the committee and, therefore, could not be taken up by the plenary, he said.

Estrada prosecutors told to explain

THE SANDIGANBAYAN has summoned Chief State Prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and three other officials to testify on charges that a former senior state prosecutor, Alexander Padilla, had misrepresented himself during a hearing of the plunder charges against jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

The court will be hearing a motion from Estrada's court-appointed lawyers, who want Padilla to be cited in contempt for presenting prosecution witness Aurora Baldoz in the March 24 hearing, although he was supposed to have given up his post as senior state prosecutor by that time.

The lawyers also want the March 24 proceedings nullified because of the alleged "fabrication" of Padilla.

In his defense, Padilla presented documents showing that Justice Secretary Simeon Datumanong had accepted his resignation only on March 25. *Armand Nocum*

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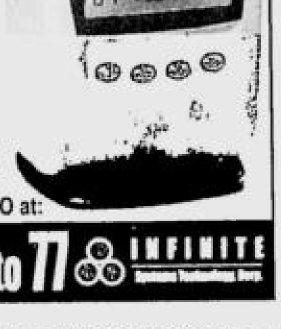

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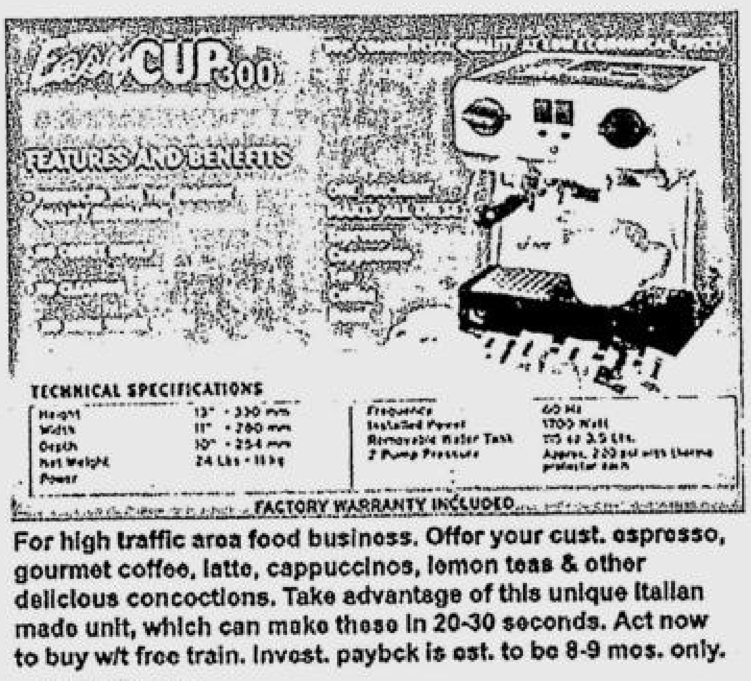

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Studes buy time on drug tests

By Dona Pazzibugan

EDUCATION officials are in no rush to conduct drug tests on students.

Undersecretary for Operations Ramon Bacani said yesterday many legal and budgetary issues still remained to be ironed out before the country's high school and college students would have to surrender their urine samples.

The Department of Education is working on the guidelines for the drug tests, together with the Commission on Higher Education and the National Youth Commission.

The Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002 mandates random drug tests on students, policemen, public and private employees, and candidates for public office.

The various technical working groups under the multi-agency Dangerous Drugs Board met last Friday at Camp Crame, Quezon City, to go over a second draft of the guidelines.

Bacani, who represented the DepEd, said they agreed to meet again in a couple of weeks for a third draft.

Asked when the final guidelines will be out, Bacani was unsure.

"Maybe in a month," he said, adding that the DDB still had to go over the draft of the working groups.

Bacani said that during the meeting, the agencies and organizations involved agreed not to rush the guidelines.

Interior Secretary Joey Lina said earlier the random drug tests would be conducted this year.

Among the sticky issues still to be ironed out by the education sector are the question of confidentiality of the results and its legal implications.

The working groups have so far agreed that the drug tests could not be used as evidence in court.

The principle, Bacani said, is that the results of the drug tests could not be used as grounds for expulsion or lawsuits.

Bacani said they would also want to "exhaust all means" to rehabilitate students found positive for drugs. These students should not be identified by their schools, he added.

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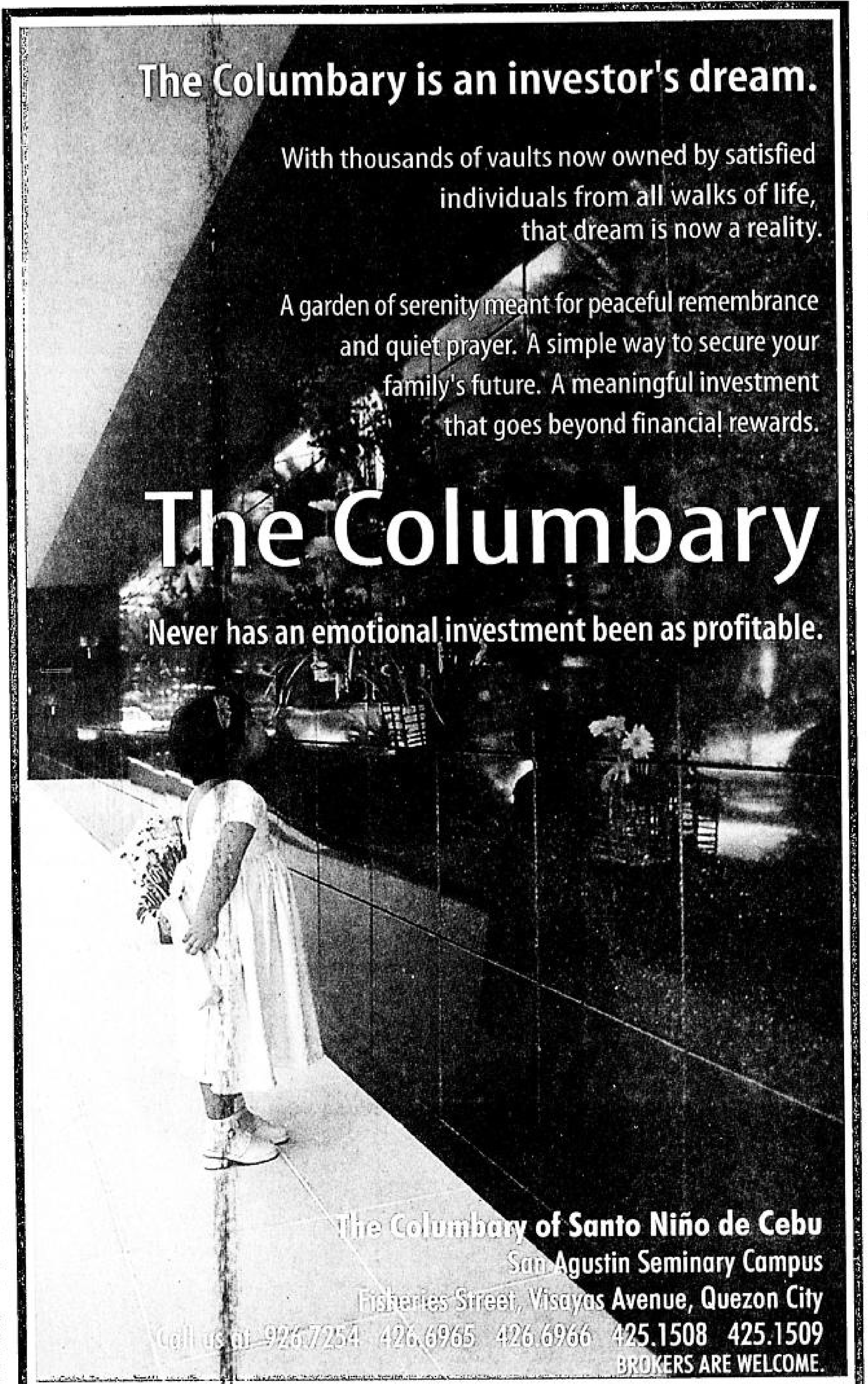

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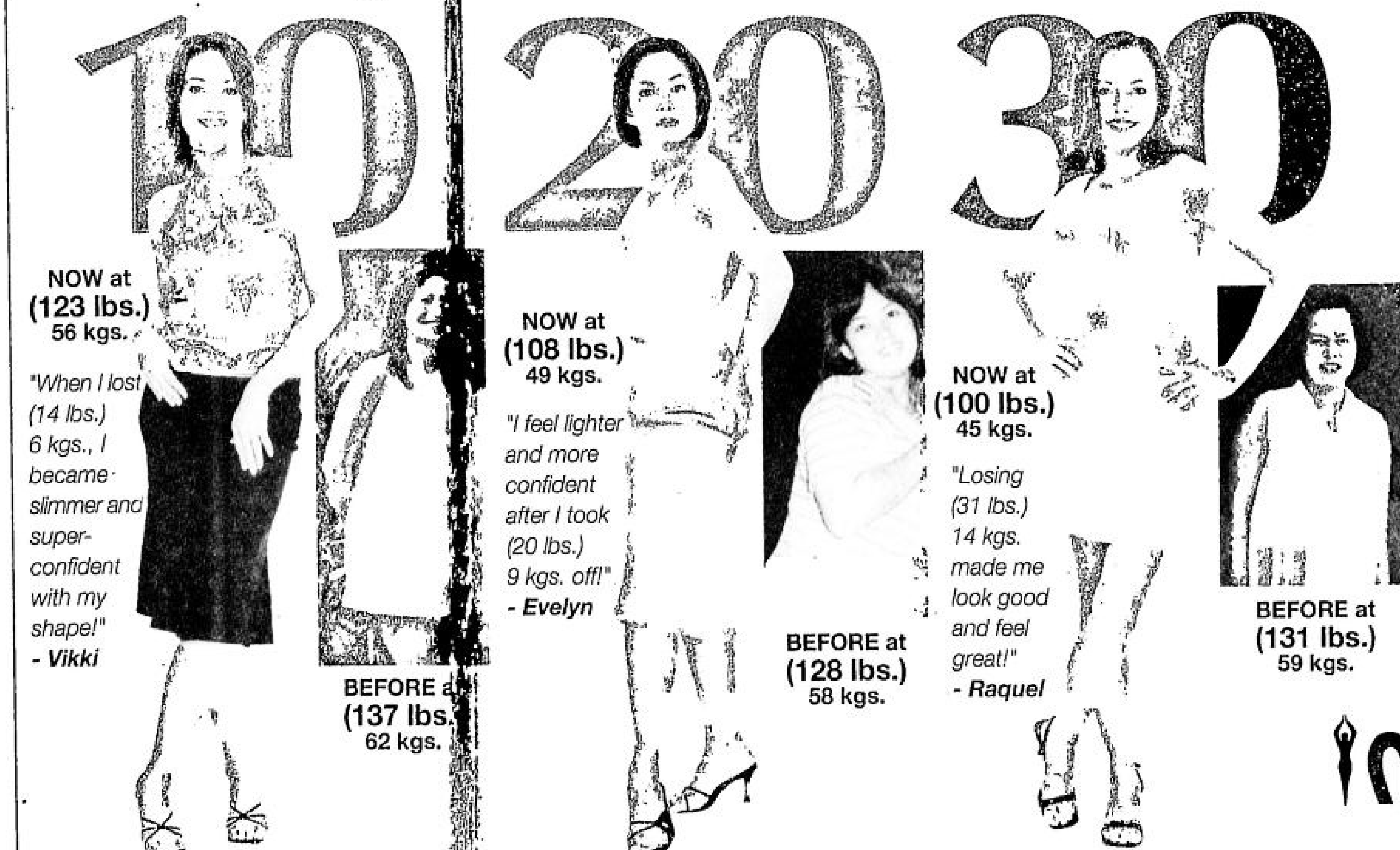

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Bishop Tobias created commission that found Agoo apparitions fake

By Gia Damaso-Dumo
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

THE BISHOP the Vatican named to temporarily replace Bishop Teodoro Bacani Jr. in the Diocese of Novaliches is no stranger to controversy. Ten years ago, Bishop Antonio Tobias created the commission that eventually found the Agoo apparitions to be fake.

But meeting reporters yesterday, Tobias sought to downplay any controversy attending his new assignment as the apostolic administrator of Novaliches.

He said yesterday he would like to talk with the woman who had accused Bacani of sexual harassment—if circumstances would allow.

"To talk to her would be my first agenda (item). But I am going there more for the healing, to help ease the situation or tension in the diocese," the 62-year-old Tobias told the INQUIRER.

Tobias said he would serve a dual role as bishop ordinary of the Diocese of San Fernando and apostolic administrator *se de plena* of the Diocese of Novaliches.

His appointment is temporary "for as long as it is the wish of the Holy See," Tobias said.

"I am not replacing (Bishop) Bacani. As administrator, I will run the ordinary affairs of the diocese. But I cannot make any plans yet until I have made a thorough assessment and processing of the situation of the whole diocese," he said.

On his appointment, Tobias said "there was the aspect of providence, but also of surprise."

He said the Papal Nuncio explained to him that he was being assigned temporarily to Novaliches because of his experience in "fixing troubles."

"I also believe in the grace of office, that God will provide what I need wherever he places me. So in the spirit of obedience, I will go where I am needed," he said.

Tobias was born in San Andres Bukid, Manila, on June 13, 1941. He learned the grades at E. de los Santos Elementary School in Singalong.

Tobias finished his theology courses at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati and his licentiate in canon law (magna cum laude) at the University of Santo Tomas.

He worked at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Minor Seminary in Makati for 12 years, serving as its rector for eight years. He had been auxiliary bishop of Zamboanga for two years and bishop of Pagadian for nine years.

Tobias' appointment as bishop of San Fernando on May 28, 1993, was eclipsed by news of the alleged apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that self-styled seer Judiel Nieva claimed to be happening in Agoo town at that time.

The devoted and the curious alike came in droves and reported heavenly visions and even conversion of souls.

TOBIAS: No stranger to controversy

Apparition site

Tobias told the INQUIRER that since practically nobody knew him then, he freely visited the so-called apparition site and observed and spoke with the pilgrims for many weeks, disguised as a pilgrim or even as a Muslim.

He even had a chance to speak with Nieva.

"I considered that the people were serious and sincere. But the authenticity of the medium needed to be studied, hence I formed a commission for that purpose," Tobias said.

For three days, he retreated to Pagadian where he wrote his first circular, he said.

"In the circular, I prohibited the saying of Masses at the apparition site because doing that would give a magical aura to the place. Initially, many pilgrims (did not agree) because of the conversion they experienced. But I explained that conversion could happen because that was the work of God in you but it did not mean that the apparition was authentic. Eventually, the commission itself came out with the finding that the medium was a hoax," he said.

But what Tobias considers an even bigger challenge than the fake Agoo apparition was "fixing" the problem of the "fractious clergy" in the San Fernando diocese he inherited.

"After 10 years, we were able to make the relations (among priests) quite friendly. They now respect each other and have a better morale. But I think the situation would improve more if they would be able to discuss their differences openly," he said.

Tobias said he intends to divide his time between Novaliches and San Fernando by spending the third week of each month (the usual schedule for clergy meetings) in San Fernando and the other three weeks in Novaliches for the next six months.

Christine willing to subject 2 daughters to DNA tests

From page A1

"Every father would include priests or bishops ... (but) the Catholic Church never said that Yalung was the father of a child," Reuter said in a faxed statement.

Carbon copy?

Christine gave birth last week to "another carbon copy" of Yalung.

Rances is confined at the Cardinal Santos hospital in San Juan, where she had also delivered her first child. She delivered her second daughter, who weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces by caesarean section.

The Papal Nuncio Antonio Franco shouldered her hospital bills after she sought help from the Apostolic Nunciature, she said.

"The Nuncio was very supportive. They are very kind to me," Rances told the INQUIRER in a phone interview the other night.

She noted that, unlike some priests who badmouthed her, the Nuncio and even Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin did not come out saying nasty things about her or her children.

She also dispelled reports that Yalung was well-off, saying that the last time she spoke with Yalung over the phone in January, the bishop felt sad that he could not support her at the time.

YALUNG: Vatican librarian

She said Yalung was now working as a librarian in the Vatican, not in the United States as earlier reported.

"I cannot say anything hurtful against him. Bishop Yalung is a father to us; he loved us, but he could not do anything about his situation," she said.

She said she was not after money but only wanted to ensure her children's monthly food sustenance and educational plans.

"If they want to give us milk, then I will accept that, even if I have to go to their office every month to get it," she said.

"I'm not after their money. I am young, I can work ... (but some priests) are very unfair to my kids."

NOTICE of CHANGE of NAME

Notice is hereby given for the change of name of Ms. Velasco from **ARVY VELASCO** to **MA. ARVY VELASCO**, legitimate daughter of Mr. Rodolfo Velasco and Mrs. Virginia Isaga, who was born on July 16, 1974 at Taytay, Rizal.

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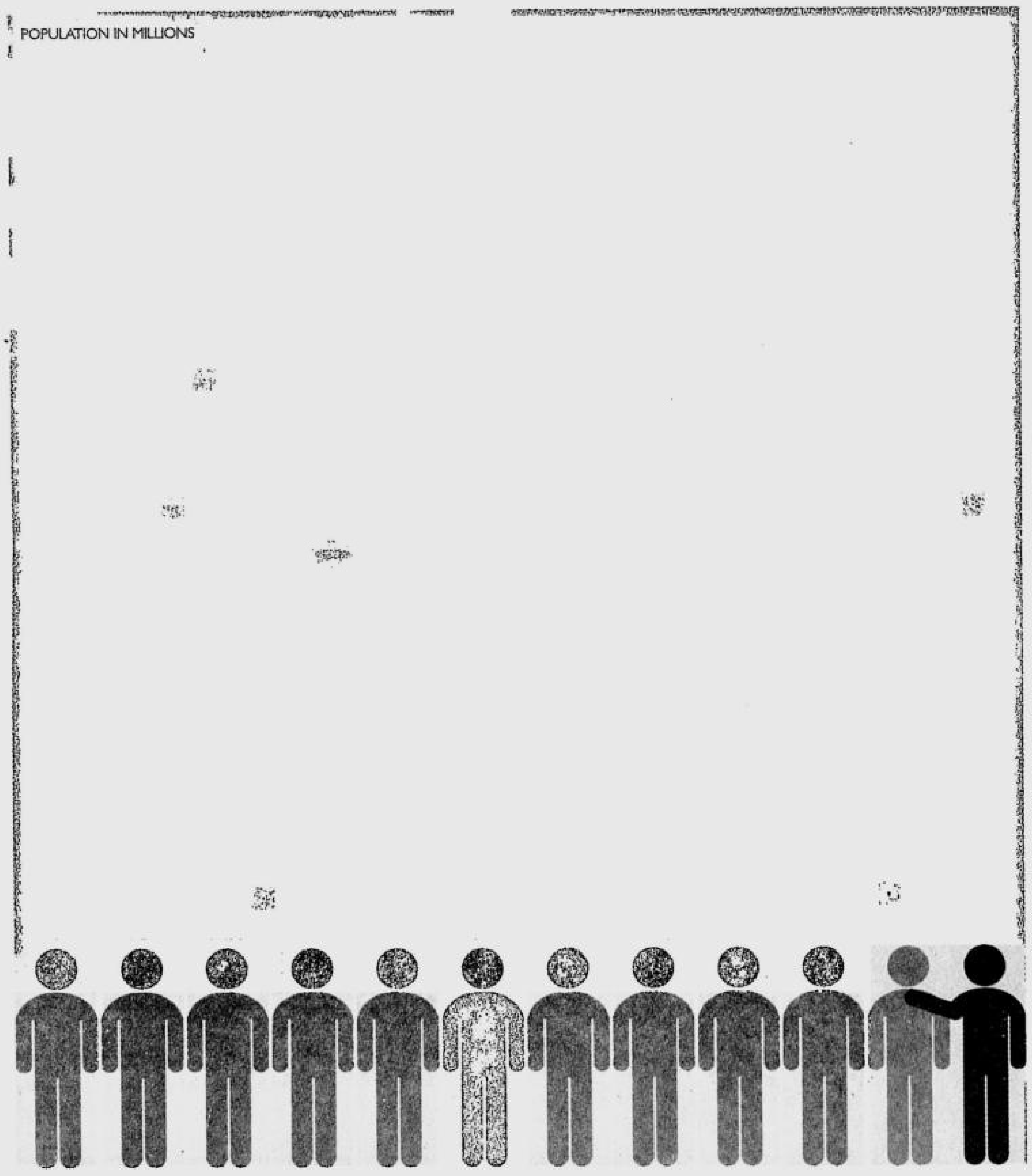

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Run again, solons dare 'sour grapes' Tatad

By Christine O. Avendaño

STUNG by former Sen. Francisco Tatad's remark about the Senate being a "dead institution," two senators yesterday dared Tatad to run for another term in 2004.

Tatad should "help resurrect the institution by coming back," said opposition Sen. Rodolfo Biazon.

"If he knows the institution is dead, he must know what caused it to die and know how it could be resurrected," he said.

Tatad served three Senate terms and was ineligible to run in 2001.

Senate President Franklin Drilon took strong exception to Tatad's remarks and suggested the ex-senator was probably indulging in "sour grapes."

He challenged the ex-senator to "present himself anew to the judgment of the Filipino electorate" next year . . . "so the people can once more avail [themselves] of his expertise," if he gets elected.

And should Tatad make it back to the Senate, Drilon said he was certain the ex-senator "would take back his words in the face of the lively and exciting life in the Senate."

Defending the chamber's achievements, Drilon said the Senate has passed some significant legislation, among these, the Anti-Money Laundering Law, the Absentee Voting Law, the Dual Citizenship Act, the Dangerous Drugs Act and the anti-smoking bill which President Macapagal-Arroyo signed into law yesterday.

He said all these would "flatly belie Mr. Tatad's assertion that even on the most serious issues, you do not hear anything from the Senate." .

100 clean-air buses to hit streets in Oct.

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINES will get to sample benefits of cleaner motor vehicle emissions in October, when 100 buses fueled by compressed natural gas arrive from the United States.

The vehicles are part of a US environmental assistance program for the Philippines.

Environment Secretary Elisea Gozun made the announcement in a meeting with Philippine Embassy officials in Washington last week. Gozun was on an observation tour of the US, along with other government leaders concerned with environmental programs.

Embassy officials quoted Gozun as saying the country needed to move forward in addressing problems of the environment, and to look into policy reforms that should be put in place now, "so that the next administration will have no choice but to continue them."

Aside from the delivery of the ecologically friendly buses, Gozun said, the government was looking forward to enacting the Clean Water Act, and another law creating an Environmental Protection Agency.

"The enactment into law of these two bills . . . are the two chief priorities in the closing months of (President Macapagal-Arroyo's) administration," Gozun said.

Ambassador to Washington Albert del Rosario thanked Dr. Marie Ricciardone, country manager for the US-Asia Environmental Program in the Philippines, who made possible the observation tour, funded by the US Agency for International Development.

Remembering Larry

IN COMMEMORATION of the first death anniversary of cartoonist Larry Alcala, Masses will be offered at several churches in Metro Manila and Bacolod City today.

A National Artist nominee, Alcala died of a heart attack at his home in Villa Valderrama, Bacolod City, on June 24 last year. He was 75.

In Metro Manila, the Masses will be at the Sto. Domingo Church at 6 a.m.; Immaculate Heart of Mary parish church (Claret), UP Village, 6:30 a.m.; Parish of the Holy Sacrifice Church, UP Diliman, at noon, and the Presentation of the Child Jesus parish church, BF Homes, Parañaque City, 7 p.m. In Bacolod, Masses will be offered at the Redemptorist Church at 6:15 a.m. and the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church at 6:30 a.m.

Relatives and friends will also gather for prayers at the home of Alcala's sister Elena and her husband, Dr. Rudy Obial, at BF Homes, Parañaque.

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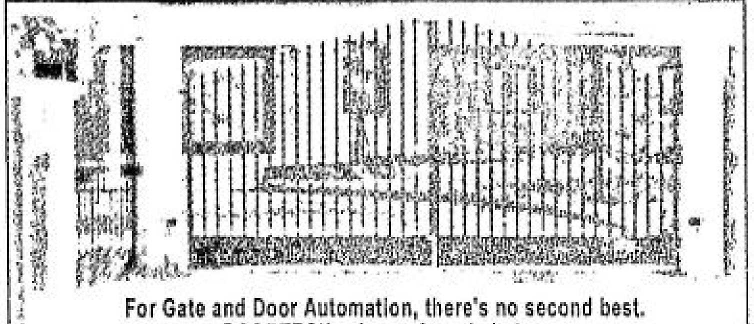

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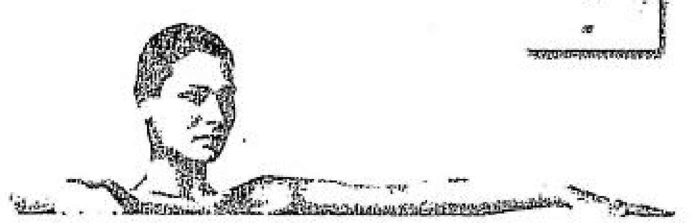

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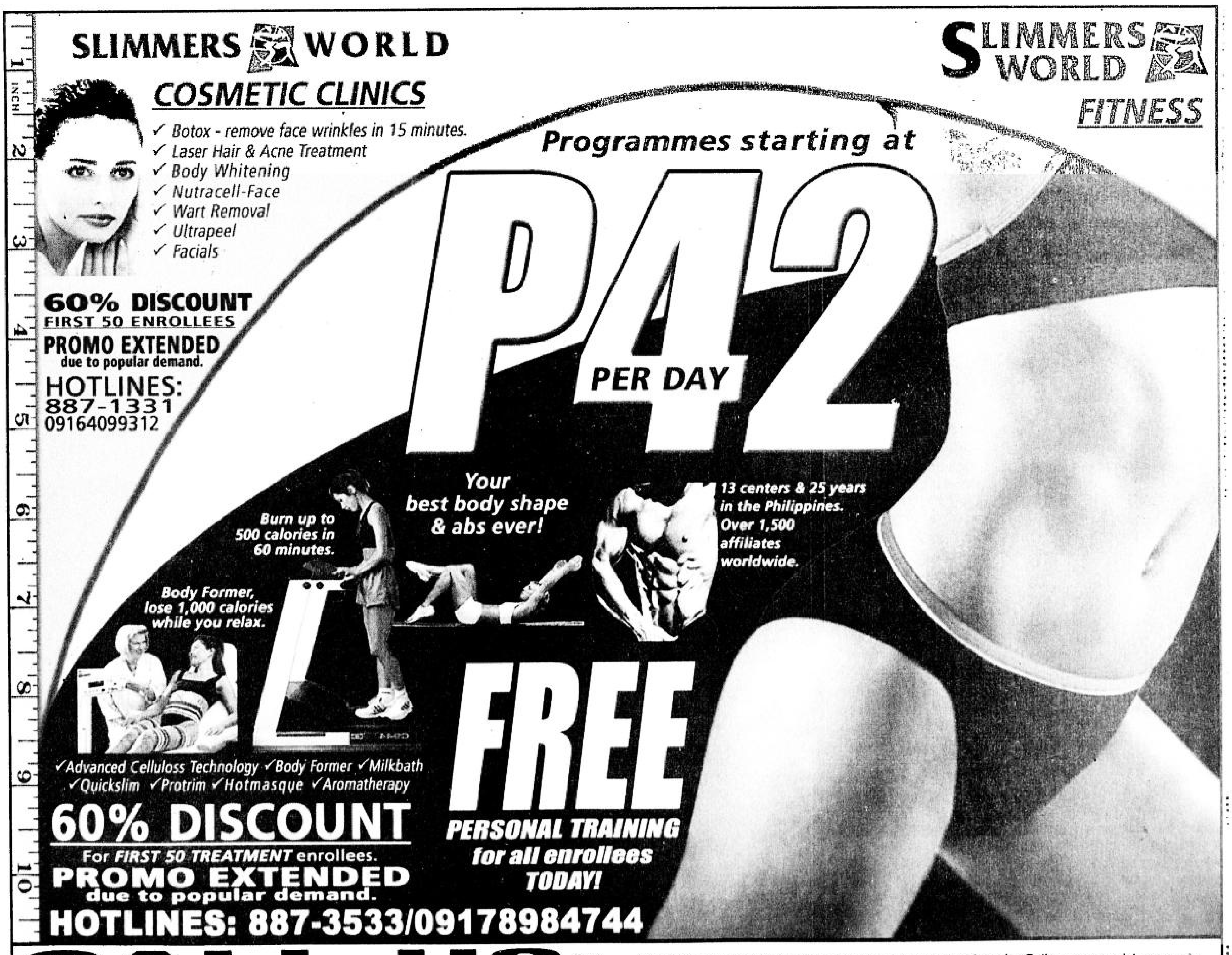

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Eugenia D. Apostol
Founding Chairman

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OPINION

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War on drugs

EDITORIAL

VERY ALARMING. This was how Anselmo Avenido Jr., chief of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, last week described the drug situation in the country today. But even this description may be something of an understatement. Consider the following:

- The number of drug users has grown to 3.4 million from only 20,000 in 1972. Some officials, like Cebu City Rep. Antonio Cuenco, said that the more accurate figure is about 9 million.
- About 65 to 70 percent of the prison inmates are in jail for drug-related crimes, Avenido said.
- The PDEA last year identified 215 local drug syndicates and is now targeting 175.
- Last year, the number of drug-affected barangays totaled 3,489 or 8 percent of the country's 42,000 barangays.
- *Shabu*, believed to be the most popular and most widely used drug, is being smuggled into the country through seaports, airports, mail and parcel services and the vast expanse of the Philippine coastline.
- A 2002 report on international narcotics control made by the US State Department identifies the Philippines as the main transshipment point of illegal drugs to Japan, Korea, Australia, the United States, Guam and Saipan.
- The drug industry earns more than $5 billion (about P277 billion) a year. The country's illegal drugs trade has been estimated to account for 8 percent of the Gross National Product.
- Drug use has almost totally permeated Philippine society. Drugs are used and abused by socialites, show-biz celebrities, professionals, blue collar workers, bus and tricycle drivers.

The government should have acted more resolutely and forcefully on the drug problem a long time ago. But it's better late than never. We hope that the current anti-drugs campaign is not just another *ningas cogon* thing that will be forgotten and abandoned once some syndicates have been smashed and some big pushers jailed.

For starters, the campaign has to have a full-time "czar," not a senator who will have one foot in the legislative department and the other in the executive. In the first place, there may be some legal questions about Sen. Robert Barbers performing executive functions while he is still a legislator. He has said he was ready to resign from the Senate to take full charge of the campaign. Why not make him a full-time czar?

The administration has set a 90-day deadline for the anti-drugs campaign to produce some big results. Considering the enormousness of the problem, 90 days may not be enough. Six months or even a year may be more realistic.

A multi-pronged approach making use of the energies, manpower and resources of all sectors of society will have to be used. Law enforcement agencies, including the Philippine National Police, PDEA, National Bureau of Investigation, Coast Guard, Philippine Navy, Bureau of Customs and the Department of the Interior and Local Government have to coordinate their efforts in going after smugglers, producers, sellers, pushers and users of illegal drugs.

But first, the law enforcement agencies and the courts have to go through a cleansing process to rid them of corrupt people who can be bribed to dispose of evidence or to drop entire cases. The new anti-drugs law, Republic Act No. 9165, is a "very harsh law," according to Barbers. It remains only for government officials to exercise political will to fully enforce its provisions.

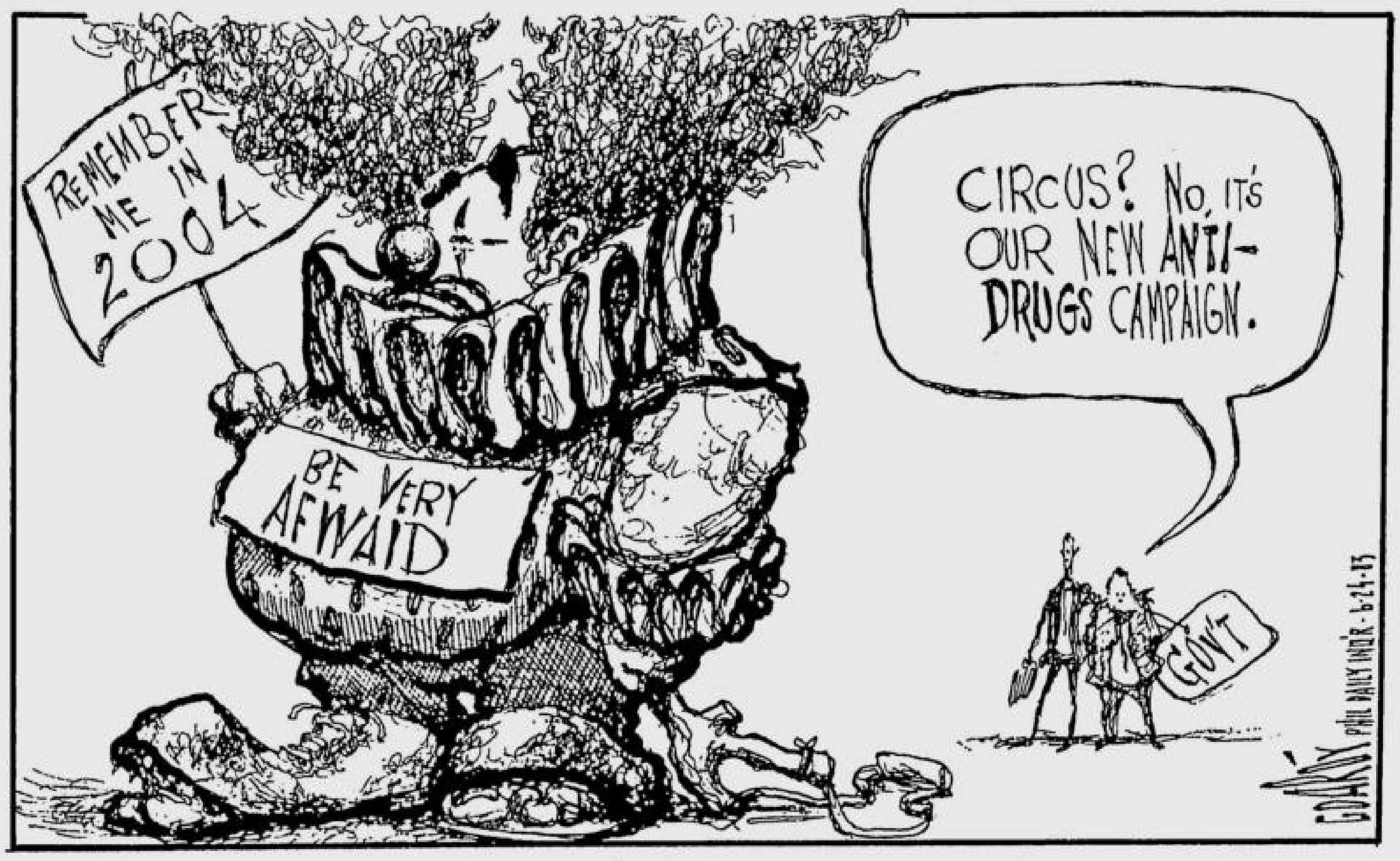
A paper issued by the Institute of Politics of the Ateneo de Naga University says that "the Philippines is starting to become infamous for illegal drugs." The Philippines has been lined up, together with Colombia and Mexico, as one of the world's centers of illegal drugs.

We do not want to become another Colombia. But while an all-out war against drugs is in order, a caveat has to be issued. We must air a warning against the adoption of the so-called "Thaksin solution" to the drug problem in Thailand.

In just three months, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra was able to claim "victory" in the campaign against drugs in his country. But the campaign, which critics said resulted in human rights violations, left more than 2,200 people dead.

Kofi Annan's representative on human rights, Hina Jilani, said there were indications that the campaign targeted the more marginalized communities. And Amnesty International said the campaign amounted to a "shoot-to-kill" policy against anyone believed to be involved in the drug trade.

We want the country's drug problem to be solved, but at the same time we caution our law enforcers against taking shortcuts that violate people's human rights.


REMEMBER ME IN 2004
BE VERY AFWAID
CIRCUS? NO, IT'S OUR NEW ANTI-DRUGS CAMPAIGN.
GOV'T
DUANY PHIL DAILY INQR - 6-24-03

How about an anti-squatting czar?

As I See It

Neal H. Cruz

NOW that President Macapagal-Arroyo has appointed an anti-drug czar, why doesn't she appoint an anti-squatting czar, too? The squatting, land-grabbing and fake land-titling syndicates have become as dangerous, rich, powerful and influential as the drug syndicates. And if Sen. Robert Barbers, a feared and fearless ex-policeman, is the anti-drug czar, the logical choice for anti-squatting czar is Interior Secretary Joey Lina, principal sponsor of the Urban Development and Housing Act, better known as the Lina Law. After all, he knows all the provisions of the law by heart and he is the secretary for local government units (LGUs) which are supposed to be the first line of defense against squatters.

The Lina Law was touted by its principal sponsor as "the ultimate solution to the squatting problem." But far from doing that, it has worsened the squatting problem. There are a hundred times more squatters now than before the law was passed.

For the law has made it much more difficult and expensive, even for the government, to eject squatters and for the rightful owners to reclaim their properties. The law, because it is heavily in their favor at the expense of the tax-paying property owners, has made the squatters bolder. They are now invading big tracts of land—university campuses, subdivision lots, parks, agriculture and forest lands—as full-blown syndicates.

Not content with merely occupying somebody else's lots, they are now faking deeds of sale and land titles in connivance with corrupt registers of deeds and judges. Even if the owners file cases in court for the nullification of the fake titles, the courts are so slow to begin with, and the syndicates can delay the cases further through bribery and legal manipulation, so that the cases can take many years to resolve, going all the way up to the Supreme Court, which has already made a mistake in at least one case, the Maysilo Estate.

By the time the fake title is nullified, it has already been subdivided and sold to gullible buyers. Even if the land-grabbing syndicate ultimately lose the land, it has already run away with the buyers' money. And in most cases, the very vulnerable victims are the squatters.

Ironically, the bleeding hearts think they are helping the poor when they coddle squatters. They don't. They are helping the rich land-grabbing syndicates whose victims, besides the property owners, are the squatters themselves. The squatters pay rent and give their life's savings for little pieces of land they think they would own to the syndicates. Actually the gullible poor are sold nothing but false promises, fake documents, a mirage.

The syndicates have branched out into forgery. They forge the signature of the real owners on deeds of sale which are then used to transfer titles to other persons in connivance with corrupt registers of deeds.

Complaints about some of these corrupt registers of deeds have been sent to the Land Registration Authority, but the only punishment they usually get is a transfer to another municipality where they continue their nefarious trade.

That is why the land-grabbing and fake land-titling syndicates are as dangerous as the drug rings. Not only are they destroying the Torrens title system, overloading the courts, corrupting the land registration system, but also victimizing the poorest of the poor.

Joey Lina defends his pet law, saying it is meritorious but that the LGUs are not enforcing all its provisions. Well then, as DILG chief, why doesn't he order them to enforce all the provisions of the law?

There are provisions against professional squatters and squatting syndicates. There are provisions penalizing public officials coddling squatters. There are provisions mandating the summary ejection of squatters on waterways and road rights-of-way. But these provisions are not being enforced. Only the provisions favorable to the squatters are being implemented.

And even when there are no provisions mandating the payment of "disturbance fees" per square meter of the pieces of land they squat on, the Department of Public Works and Highways pays them for that. To finish Congressional Avenue Extension in Culiat, Quezon City, for example, one squatter on the DPWH list is listed as due to receive P450,000!

This has given incentives to squatting syndicates, for it has become a very lucrative business. And at this rate, the government will run out of money and out of land for relocation sites but the squatting problem will never be solved. On the contrary, it will worsen.

Politics has abetted squatting. It has made every candidate a squatter coddler because squatters mean votes. President Macapagal-Arroyo has the rare opportunity to break this vicious cycle and be remembered by history as a true statesman and a good leader. As she is not going to run for reelection as she promised (and I think her real inclination is not to run but the parasites around her are pressing her to), she doesn't have to be afraid of the squatters' votes. As a non-candidate, she is the only one who can put the squatting syndicates in their places. Any other candidate won't dare do that.

GMA is our last chance (and Joey Lina as anti-squatting czar?) to cut the chains, the scourge and the cancer of the squatting syndicates.

Reiterations

There's the Rub

Conrado de Quiros

FR. Cyrain Cabueñas of Eastern Samar has a very moving plea. He begs for understanding. Priests, he says, have their own shortcomings.

"People should be a bit more charitable toward priests who make mistakes. It is just like being in the family. We have our mistakes and forgive each other. The mission is really divine, but the instrument unfortunately is all too human."

I have absolutely no problem overlooking the shortcomings of priests, being more understanding of them and forgiving them when they make mistakes. By this I mean that I have no problem accepting priests who often fall into the snares of the seven cardinal sins. Most of us are not going to pass that litmus test, the cardinal sins including, if I remember my Catechism right, not just lust but things like gluttony, drunkenness and sloth. The last two are practically a national trait. It's enough to make you believe the cardinal sins were invented by a Protestant rather than a Catholic.

But I have problems overlooking behavior that violates the laws of God and man. Or never mind that, just plain decency. I can accept that the mission is divine but the instrument is all too human. But I cannot accept that the mission is divine but the instrument is all too diabolical.

Like I said before, I have no problems with priests who flirt, have love affairs, and even marry and have children. The last is sufficient punishment for human frailty. But I have monumental problems with priests who sexually harass, abuse, or even rape. These things are not sufficiently punished by censure from superiors, or frostiness by the parishioners.

Those are two different things.

Unfortunately, that point always seems to elude people. Certainly, it has eluded the discussion of Bishop Teodoro Bacani's transgression, or the one he stands accused of. Last Sunday, I looked at our enumeration of the sex scandals priests had figured in over the last several years (Talk of the Town) and felt that while it illuminated on one side, it also obfuscated on the other.

The list includes on one hand Fr. Polienato (what a name, a pollinating person) Bernabe, a parish priest in Gulfport, Florida, who was accused of sexually molesting a girl there over a long period of time. On the other, it includes Fr. Nicanor Sta. Maria, a former principal of Don Bosco, whom his secretary sought child support from, the child being the product of their five-year relationship. On one hand, it includes seven unknown priests who raped a prospective nun and got her pregnant. On the other, it includes a former priest, Delfin Quijano, who was denied a Catholic burial by Cebu's religious authorities for having left the priesthood and married. On one hand, it includes Fr. Apolinario Mejorada of a Cebu parish who was accused by a whole slew of altar boys of sexually abusing them. On the other, it includes Fr. Hector Canto who got married while wearing his cassock, his wedding being officiated by another priest, Jesus Siva, who himself proposed to marry his girlfriend.

True enough, these are all scandals that have rocked the Church. But they are not the same things. The second set of items consists of "shortcomings," to borrow Cabueñas' word. The first set consists of crimes. The second set of items is forgivable. The first set is not.

Both of them clearly stand to erode the Church's moral authority. But neither the Church nor the public may treat them in the same way. Or resolve them in the same way.

The "shortcomings" I myself wouldn't mind treating with benign negligence, or bovine forgetfulness, whichever comes first, or more easily. I don't mind that the Church covers them up, or simply allows the priests to leave the priesthood as their heart dictates. Truly, there you have to make allowances for human frailty. Indeed, I'd go further and reiterate what I said before that I personally have more faith in people who are able to love somebody rather than just the whole of humanity. People who are able to love somebody merely become fathers, people who are able to love only humanity become fanatics.

The crimes the Church may not cover up or the public let pass. Sexual harassment is not a matter for understanding, it is a matter for punishment. Sexual abuse is not a matter for compassion, it is a matter for retribution. Rape is not a matter for administrative sanction, it is a matter for imprisonment.

That is the part where I cannot abide the expressions of "solidarity" for Bishop Bacani by several religious and civic organizations. I was particularly astounded by some of their statements, particularly the ones vouching for his character and enumerating his good deeds. That presumes the people who have been haled to court, some of whom now languish in jail, are thoroughly wicked individuals who have utterly no redeeming qualities. I am certain they too will not lack for people who can vouch for their kindness and can tick off some good deeds they have done.

And that is the part where I cannot abide the public's willingness to repose this in the hands of the Church. Or to accept mere administrative sanctions in the belief that someone who has been embarrassed in this way has been sufficiently punished, or even oppressed. Bacani is not accused of flirting or marrying or fathering a child, he is accused of sexual harassment. By someone who seems fairly level-headed, who has avoided the limelight and begged only for a fair hearing. If we want to express solidarity with and sympathy for anyone, it should be with her and for her.

To err is human, to forgive divine? Crimes are human, justice divine!

* * *

Comments to dequiros@info.com.ph

Coco farmers protest Danding SMC ads

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide spoke earlier about "sinister forces" out to destroy the Supreme Court and the judicial system. Given the latest developments, he could be right. There appears to be a pattern to them and the target is to weaken the Supreme Court.

First, former President Estrada, through his lawyer Rene Saguisag, filed an impeachment complaint in the House of Representatives against Davide and six other justices. Estrada asserted that the Supreme Court justices violated their oath of office and the Constitution when they attended the swearing-in of then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo by the Chief Justice on Jan. 20, 2001.

Then new Estrada lawyer Alan Paguia filed an omnibus motion asking the Sandiganbayan to summon the President and the Chief Justice to testify on Erap's claim of presidential immunity. The graft court is expected to throw out this motion any time, on the ground that a lower court cannot question issues already decided by the highest court, such as GMA's legitimacy.

* * *

The third was Nationalist People's Coalition Rep. William Fuentebella's House resolution filed last month seeking a probe into the alleged mismanagement of the Judiciary Development Fund (JDF). The JDF, said to be worth P1.2 billion at present, is a discretionary fund put up by President Marcos in 1985 under the control of the Chief Justice, to give him the means to augment the income of judiciary employees as a buffer against corruption. Over the terms of various chief justices, there have been ramblings among court employees about JDF disbursements, with lower court employees periodically complaining why the Supreme Court employees were getting more than they did. The complaints were loudest during the time of Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, who later became Erap's counsel. But this is the first time members of the legislature, led by NPC president Gilbert Teodoro, are agitating for a probe.

* * *

The Davide court was quoted as stressing that under the principle of separation of powers, the judiciary is independent of the legislature, and does not have to account to it. Moreover, the Constitution guarantees the judiciary "fiscal autonomy" and insiders point out that the JDF is audited by the Commission on Audit. But reports say two NPC stalwarts, former Speaker Noli Fuentebella and former Senate President Ernesto Maceda, a close supporter of NPC chair Eduardo Cojuangco, are preparing a second impeachment complaint against Davide should he resist the House probe into the JDF. The Constitution prohibits the filing of a second impeachment complaint within the same year, but this may be ignored, perhaps because it makes good copy.

* * *

The latest move against the Court is the allegation that Justice Reynato Puno, who penned the majority decision voiding the Piatco contract, may not have been the one who actually wrote it but the law office of Arthur "Pancho" Villaraza, GMA's private lawyer, who had been involved in negotiations with Piatco and Fraport. I sought the opinion of some lawyers and they pointed out that Puno is one of the most "facile" pens in the Supreme Court, so he does not need Villaraza to do any writing for him. (One lawyer said that the UP-trained Villaraza cannot even write a brief, much less a decision.)

* * *

These lawyers opine that these recent moves seem to have one goal: to erode the credibility of the Supreme Court. They see a "confluence of motives," noting that two politically significant decisions should be coming up soon: the coconut levy cases against Cojuangco, who might run for president in 2004, and the motion for reconsideration of declared presidential candidate Panfilo Lacson on his Kuratong Baleleng case. Then, too, the Sandiganbayan could end up convicting Estrada, after his lawyers gave up presenting arguments in his defense, and the conviction could go up to the Supreme Court.

The moves could also be intended to punish Davide for his role in GMA's oath-taking, and even Puno, who penned the March 2, 2001 Supreme Court decision upholding the legitimacy of GMA's presidency. It is significant that the prime movers behind these cases belong to the NPC.

* * *

Several coconut farmers' groups have filed protests with the Presidential Commission on Good Government against the use of San Miguel Corp. funds to advance the presidential ambition of SMC chair Eduardo Cojuangco through company ads. Among them are Joey Faustino, executive director of the Coconut Industry Reform Movement (COIR), and Pascual Cabingatan, chair of the Coco-Agri-Aqua Farmers Development Coalition. Their complaint could crop up in the annual SMC directors' meeting tomorrow, where the seven government representatives in the SMC board are expected to take it up.

* * *

Faustino recalled Cojuangco's use of SMC funds to help ensure the victory of President Marcos in the snap presidential election of 1986, and how the SMC chair is again resorting to an advertising blitz for his own political purpose, this time through "Barangay Ginebra." The farmers said Cojuangco's advertising gimmick, paid for by an SMC subsidiary, violates the by-laws of SMC, 27 percent of which is owned by the coco farmers through the levy funds and another 20 percent of which is in Cojuangco's name, but believed by the farmers and the government to also have been acquired with the same funds.

Cojuangco's much-touted political plans could indeed create big problems for SMC. Article III Sec. 8 of its by-laws expressly makes it a duty of the SMC board to "ensure that the Corporation shall not engage in partisan political activities." Interestingly, Article III came up as an amendment to the by-laws on April 11, 1986, in response to the massive use of SMC funds by the group of Cojuangco to support Marcos against his cousin, Corazon Cojuangco-Aquino.

After Saddam, a media boom

FEATURE

Hassan Hafidh

BAGHDAD—Iraq's newspapers never used to have much variety; they all carried the same long speeches by Saddam Hussein. Now, Iraqi readers can choose from politics, economics, sports, gossip and plenty of scandal.

Since Saddam's overthrow in April, scores of papers have sprung up, exercising freedom of expression not seen in Iraq for decades.

"We didn't have newspapers before. They were sheets of paper which published Saddam's long speeches," said Akram Hussein Thabet, deputy editor in chief of Al-Sabah (The Morning), a newspaper backed by the US-led administration.

Al-Sabah, the only official newspaper, prints about 50,000 copies an issue and comes out twice a week. It is the second biggest seller in Iraq, behind Azzaman, an independent daily run by former dissident Saad al-Bazzaz.

"All the 50,000 copies of Azzaman that we publish daily run out and we are targeting 250,000 in a few months," editorial manager Ahmed Abdul Majeed told Reuters. The newspaper is printed in Baghdad and London.

Newspaper sellers say they are doing a roaring trade. "I have counted 110 new newspapers since the fall of Saddam," said Noah al-Shammasi, who has run the Al-Ibdaa book and newspaper shop in Baghdad for more than 20 years.

"Before there were only five political daily newspapers and 12 weekly. More than half of them used to be run by Saddam's eldest son Uday," he said. "I used to sell 100 newspapers a day during the former regime. Now I sell more than 200."

The third best seller in Shammasi's bookshop is Habzbooz, a comic tabloid newspaper, brought out by Ishtar al-Yassiri, a young journalist who used to work on one of Uday's papers.

> Many of the new papers rely on scandal and sensationalism to sell copies

Many of the new papers rely on scandal and sensationalism to sell copies, carrying the latest crime and entertainment news and gossip about the antics of Saddam and his family.

Some have also tapped into the growing anti-American anger brewing in Iraq in a bid to sell copies.

Al Sabah, which carries the official announcements of the US-led administration, reported recently that newspapers had been banned from inciting violence against Iraq's US occupiers, part of a law issued by the administration outlawing the incitement of violence.

How this ban works in practice will be an important test of the freedom of the media. "The decision doesn't fit with the US announcement that they came here to liberate Iraq and set up a democratic system," said journalist Khadhim Achrash. "Iraqi journalists, who just got rid of the restrictions that the former government used to impose, won't accept any measure that would restrict freedom of expression. I don't think the Americans will enforce this decision because I'm sure they don't want to clash with Iraqi journalists."

The US military this month took the unusual step of issuing a statement to deny a story in Al-Saah (The Hour) that said US soldiers had raped two girls. The statement said the story was an abuse of media freedom.

The newspaper, run by prominent Iraqi Muslim cleric Ahmed al-Qubaysi, responded by firing the journalist who reported the story. Qubaysi was the first Iraqi cleric to lead a protest in Baghdad demanding that US-led troops leave Iraq.

Many of the new papers represent political parties which opposed Saddam and worked underground during his rule, or which have sprung up since his overthrow.

The Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's Al-Itihad (Union) was the first newspaper to be published in Baghdad after Saddam fell. It was followed by Al-Taakhi (Brotherhood), published by another Kurdish group, the Kurdistan Democratic Party. Both parties had ruled autonomous zones in northern Iraq since soon after the 1991 Gulf War that ejected Iraqi troops from Kuwait.

Iraqi parties such as the Iraqi National Congress, the Communist party, the Islamic Dawa party and the Iranian-backed Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SCIRI) have their own new newspapers. Independent papers have also been launched by well-known Iraqi journalists and businessmen, including confectionery tycoon Ali al-Hamdani who publishes the weekly al-Jamaheer (The Masses).

Some readers are overwhelmed. "I used to read and finish our newspapers in five to 10 minutes," said Ghasan al-Ghadhi, an Iraqi journalist. "Now if I want to read some of them, it can take a whole day."

Reuters

Thanks, but no thanks

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THIS article on Meralco's refund and new billing could have several sub-titles like: "Don't do me any favors" or "Spare me your good intentions" or "What has the Filipino done to deserve this?" (Be born in this country, I presume.)

Imagine, just a few months ago, most of us used to receive this relatively simple bill that looked like the company computer merely changed the date, punched in resend, and, voila, there you had your electrical bill that looked almost identical to last month's. Then someone (Congress, the Senate, whoever) no doubt decided that the consumer was being screwed up, something the consumer had been well aware of since he learned how to read but could never do anything about, merely because in this country you learn early on not to fight city hall, the Makati Business Club (past presidents of the republic and wannabes, take note), and Big Business. Meralco is one of the biggest.

There are other recourse of course, if you don't agree with your monthly billing. You could begin by buying a generator or several years' supply of candles, kerosene, antique Dutch lamps, etc. Get a lawyer called Villaraza as your counsel, according to the newspapers, although personally I'd get that boy Fortun and go to court. This is of course, if you have the money and quixotic ideals. Most people don't. You get your stupid bill and you pay.

Anyway, your bill used to be relatively simple and one hardly glanced at it since there was no point doing so. The company is always right (ditto PLDT and other supposedly service-oriented companies), never the customer. Then all of a sudden there was this buzz that Meralco would pay billions of pesos in refunds. Oh, wow! I'll believe it when I see it, I thought.

Apparently anyone consuming 100 kilowatts or less would be refunded 30 centavos or whatever was their due. Anyone consuming 101 or more could wait till kingdom come. In the meantime, the May-June bill arrived. And this is the "Please, please don't do me any more favors" phase.

The first thing you notice is the kilometric explanation for the fact that the bill has suddenly doubled. Customer Service or perhaps the Meralco PR decided it was a brilliant move to explain to consumers why we are being doubly screwed up. First comes something called "Generation Charge." This is the biggest single amount among the 15 items listed. It means, I presume, that you're paying thousands for someone to press a lever or a button for the electricity to start flowing. Next is a "Transmission Charge." That must be, let me guess, for the electricity to move from point A to point B and somewhere along get to you. The difference between generating and transmitting is a fine line and it doesn't really matter because you have no choice but to pay.

Then comes "Systems Loss Charge." If I weren't crying so hard by now, I'd be dying of laughter. These guys actually force their customers to pay for their inefficiency and we're too stupid or too incapacitated to do anything about it. Does anybody know why we're responsible for their losses?

Then we are slapped a "Distribution Charge." Now that's really great. Not only does Meralco get paid for providing electrical power but it is being remunerated for distributing it, too. Isn't that double compensation? If that makes sense to you, good. It doesn't to me.

The long-suffering Filipino consumer also gets the privilege of paying for something called "Retail Customer Charge" and "Metering System Charge." Is this some kind of VAT or something? I can almost imagine the Meralco gnomes burning the midnight oil manufacturing all these imaginative charges. Anything to make a buck, I guess.

If you think I'm finished, think again. I'm only halfway through the billing. There's still the "Supply Charge." Excuse me? Besides the generating, transmitting and distributing, there's now a cost for "supplying"? Boy, those gnomes were sure busy searching for synonyms. Some English major must have joined the group and come up with, listen to this, Lifeline "Rate Subsidy," "Interclass Subsidy," and "Power Act Redn." First of all, who are we subsidizing and why should we? Did anyone ask you if you wanted to subsidize the Lopezes? And what, pray tell, is this "Interclass" crap? That "Redn" doesn't explain anything to the reader or anyone not connected to Meralco. And when was this midnight Power Act passed that merely means the Filipino consumer gets smacked again? Did your friendly congressman fight for your rights and say, have some mercy on my constituents? Wouldn't you love to know how your representative voted on that little issue?

Just to make sure there was still something left over for company celebrations, we get charged for "CERA" (Don't bother to ask, I don't know and it wouldn't make any difference if I did), "Franchise Tax" (I thought Meralco had the franchise, not the consumer, so why are we paying their taxes?). We also have the privilege, it seems, of paying "Universal Charges" under which is an item billed as "Missionary." Now let me guess, since we're not talking sex, this must be Meralco's donations to Mother Teresa, perhaps?

And then, oh, my, we get to support Odette Alcantara and Narda Camacho with an involuntary contribution to an "Environmental Fund." Now aren't we the lucky ones?

And while we're being gang-raped, there's "MEC" which for your edification and consolation is only for the month of February and March, even if it's already June. This is still another "Missionary Electrification Charge," if you really care to know, ignoring the fact, I imagine, that they had already billed you for what looks like the same rotten garbage bag earlier.

A man of faith

YOUNG BLOOD

Richie Avigale A. Ramos

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

MY friends are proud daughters of their fathers. They have all the license to brag about their fathers who are successful businessmen, distinguished lawyers and accomplished doctors. No wonder they belong to upper-class families who can afford to pay their tuition in law school in full, while I have to pay in four installments and hope that my average qualifies me for a scholarship, so that I can at least get a 50 percent discount on mine. Still, I can say that among my friends, nobody can compare to how proud I am of my father.

My father is a rank-and-file employee of the country's flag carrier. Contrary to what many people think, he does not earn a lot and even if we are entitled to free tickets for travel abroad, we seldom avail ourselves of the privilege because we don't even have enough extra money to pay for the travel tax.

My dad's regular work starts as early as six in the morning and ends at two in the afternoon. After working eight hours, he would proceed to the ticketing office for another six grueling hours of counting tickets to earn extra money.

My classes end at nine in the evening and every night he faithfully waits to pick me up from school.

Sometimes I am tempted to envy my friends who can casually ask money for their regular shopping from their fathers. I have to do a lot of explaining before I can convince my dad to give me money for photocopying cases. But I refuse to wallow in self-pity, instead I realize that I should be more grateful to my dad.

Many of my classmates in law school get financial support from their fathers, but that is all. Their fathers provide for them out of the excess of their wealth and if they flunk, it would not be so much of a loss for the their families. On the other hand, my father invests the money he earns from his hard work in me. If I fail, it would really hurt him. But he still chose to enroll and support my law education, because, according to him, he believes that I am worth all the sacrifices and that I can be a good lawyer if I just keep my focus, give everything I've got to my studies and trust God to see me through.

My classmates tease me for being a daddy's girl. They don't understand why my dad has to fetch me every day from school. What they don't know is that unlike them, we don't have an extra car that I could drive, much less a driver who can wait while I attend my classes or go out on a "gimmick."

But given a choice, I would never trade places with any of them. Some of them are lonely in their cars during traffic and they have to settle to listening to love songs or to talkative DJs. As for me, I don't notice traffic that much, because I get to spend quality time with my dad in the car. Our travel time is our sharing time, a time when we discuss different issues, be it political, spiritual or even my petty concerns like crushes and terror professors.

Although there are times that my dad sounds like a "*sirang plaka,*" when he reiterates his rules and advice, I really appreciate the reminders. It is good to have a conservative father, who constantly reminds me of godly virtues that are easy to forget especially when I am around confused fellow young people or rationalizing adults. We don't always agree, but my dad has taught me never to be scared to speak out my mind or let anyone look down on me just because I am a girl or because I am younger.

Two imperfect individuals cannot add up to a perfect relationship, so it would be a lie to say that ours is a perfect father-daughter relationship. All I know is that my father is the best because he is a man of faith.

The Bible says in Hebrews, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." My father is a man of faith, not only because he is a godly person but because of his faith in me. I can no longer count how many times I have disappointed him. Despite all that, he sees through my failures and patiently corrects me. He believes that God has gifted me with so much potential and he is willing to be His instrument in bringing out the best in me.

It is not my father's fault that he is not rich and famous like my classmates' fathers. But he deserves credit for successfully turning our poverty into something that would make his daughter so proud of him.

Richie Avigale A. Ramos, 22, is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of the Philippines and a sophomore law student at the Ateneo de Manila University.

Waiting

Jennifer M. Trinidad

I WAS sitting on the bench underneath a mango tree as my mother had told me while she went to a *sari-sari* store nearby. I looked around, making myself busy and trying to relish every tedious thing I could see. Then I saw a man selling *taho*, with several kids jostling to buy his product. A boy who must have been 3 years old giggled when his *taho* got splattered on his chest and everyone laughed at him.

I was smiling while shaking my head when I had a glimpse of a girl being carried on her father's back. I turned away and put the sight out of my mind. I was again feeling empty inside, and I could barely hold back my tears. I envied the little girl terribly.

Lying in bed that night, the image of the father and daughter kept coming back. I only realized that I was crying when Katya, my pet dog, started barking. I got up and held her.

I found myself confiding to Katya all the difficulties, the hardships and the loneliness I had felt for many years. Then there was only silence in my room.

Does daddy love me? I asked myself. How can he live happily without seeing his daughter? Does he have any plan of being reunited with me? Which was the wrong question because we had never been together. Never was there a time when he got close to me or called me, "*Anak.*"

Sometimes when I'm alone, I create a scene in my mind: My dad is there in front of me, begging for forgiveness, but I tell him to go away. My heart says otherwise. I still long for a fatherly embrace, the love only a real father could give and a serious conversation that will make my day complete. I look forward to this occasion, but it may never come to pass.

Whatever daddy is doing now, wherever he may be, I want him to know that I am waiting.

Jennifer M. Trinidad, 23, plans to study BA English Studies at the University of the Philippines although she has already graduated cum laude with a degree in industrial technology.

Erap's actions show resignation

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

DEAN Jorge Bocobo's statement in "Zugzwang" (PDI, 6/16/03) that the framers surely intended a mathematically rigorous count of all terms—the totality of a citizen's service—from inauguration ("zero") to its end ("one")—is nothing but a presumption, until he can support that statement with the appropriate constitutional provision or the text of the deliberations of the 1987 Constitutional Commission.

The intent of the framers of the Constitution can be gleaned from the provisions itself or from the framers' deliberations. In the absence of proof to support it, Bocobo's statement only amounts to an opinion, which of course is not the intent of the framers.

That Estrada is no longer president has long been settled by jurisprudence and by fact. In Estrada vs Desierto and Estrada vs Arroyo, the Supreme Court held that the totality of prior contemporaneous and posterior facts indicate that Erap has resigned. And indeed, he left Malacañang. Erap can shout all he wants that he did not resign, but why did he abandon Malacañang? "*Intentio mea imponet nomen meo* (My intent gives a name to my act)," writes Justice Vitug.

In his concurring opinion, Justice Mendoza said: "After all, the permanent disability referred to in the Constitution can be physical, mental or moral, rendering the president unable to exercise the powers and functions of his office."

Erap then had definitely no command of his armed forces nor his high officials who were resigning one by one. Aside from power, he also lost his moral capacity and ascendancy to lead the nation by his own transgressions and by the eventual withdrawal of the people's support from his administration.

When the Supreme Court has spoken on the issue, the least that we can do is to obey. This is one's duty as a law-abiding and patriotic citizen. Supreme Court decisions are part of our legal system and although they are not laws, they are interpretations that have the force and effect of laws.

That is why I am amused by the antics of those who continue to question the legitimacy of the present government despite the decision, and are saying that they are for the rule of law. The truth is, they are lying through their teeth. They are obviously not the exemplars of how a lawyer should be. Or they ought to be disbarred because of their contempt for the decision of the Court, for gross ignorance of the law and for their unruly behavior as members of the bar.

—BEN ENTICO JR.,
ben_entico@yahoo.com

More debates on poll issues needed

I AM glad to read an article about an expected presidential debate between former Sen. Raul Roco and Sen. Panfilo Lacson. I have been hoping for such an event every election time. Instead, I see singing and dancing on the stage by candidates accompanied by movie personalities. We have more than enough entertainers and we do not need more comedians.

I hope that not only presidential candidates but also senatorial and congressional candidates will debate on the issues and their platforms.

—H. FUENTES,
San Francisco, CA, USA

Celestial medicine

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

IT improves students' performance in school and workers' productivity, wards off depression, keeps bones healthy. And now, we're hearing claims it might help to prevent high blood pressure, diabetes, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, depression and some cancers.

I'm very cynical about cure-all claims for medicines and won't endorse any product unless the scientific literature is convincing enough. In this case, we're dealing with a "drug" that not only has many proven benefits but comes absolutely free, literally straight from the heavens.

This amazing celestial medicine is sunlight, something we have in great abundance in the Philippines. Yet for a number of reasons—from a colonial racist mentality that looks at dark skin as inferior to a fear of skin cancer—Filipinos now try to keep sunlight away not just from our bodies but from our homes, schools and offices. Let's look at what we end up losing when we turn away from the sun.

First, sunlight is linked to vitamin D, which we can't get from any external source. Our own body, the skin specifically, produces this vitamin only when it's stimulated by ultraviolet B rays from sunlight. Vitamin D regulates the calcium needed in the formation and maintenance of bones. Children who do not get enough sunlight develop rickets, characterized by soft bones. In adults, a lack of vitamin D, even if the person takes enough calcium, can lead to a loss of bone density or osteoporosis.

More recent studies suggest vitamin D deficiency might be related as well to pain and weakness of the muscles. Moreover, vitamin D seems to inhibit abnormal cell growth and might therefore play a role in preventing some cancers and autoimmune disorders such as multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis and type 1 diabetes.

Besides its effects on physical functions of the body, sunlight seems to play a role in mental health as well. Sunlight interacts with serotonin, a hormone in our bodies that affects our moods, mainly stimulating alertness and varying degrees of euphoria. Prohibited drugs like *shabu* actually have similar effects, enhancing serotonin to give that "high" feeling.

In countries with winters, when days become very short, there will be outbreaks of Seasonal Affective Disorder, its acronym SAD explaining its main symptom of depression. This blue feeling can be quite serious, to the point of increasing risks for suicide.

Even in tropical countries like the Philippines, you can see a bit of SAD when we have long typhoons—several cloudy rainy days can depress people as well, as we're kept indoors.

I suspect there's still another variation of SAD, one which I see frequently in our training workshops when they're held in dreary conference rooms that block out natural light. Many of our hotels seem to think it's "modern" to have freezing air-conditioning and sealed function rooms that are either windowless or have heavy curtains to block out the sun. It's not surprising that trainees and trainers tend to become lethargic after a few hours cooped up in such rooms. I get severe headaches after lecturing an hour or two in such rooms and now turn down invitations to speak if it involves what I call a Dracula hotel, the ones that would welcome the vampire count as he flees the rays of the sun.

Last Thursday's International Herald Tribune featured "evangelists of natural light," architects who advocate more use of natural light in buildings. They cite many studies showing increased productivity in such schools and offices. One particularly significant study was conducted among 20,000 students in three American states, where they found standardized test scores were up to 26 percent higher among those attending classes in buildings primarily using natural light, compared with those who relied mainly on artificial light.

The effects of sunlight aren't all centered on serotonin. Physiologists have studied the body's rhythms, essential for many metabolic functions. These rhythms are keyed in to the subtle variations that come with natural light as the day unfolds, from sunrise to sunset. In contrast, artificial light is constant all throughout the day and this lack of variance becomes a form of sensory deprivation that can affect moods, alertness, even intellectual functioning. I sometimes wonder if our senior citizens lose interest in life because they're kept indoors, in air-conditioned rooms with the curtains drawn.

It's not surprising that so many cultures worship the sun, literally as in the case of religions with sun gods and and figuratively, as in the sun-tanning mania of Westerners. Even animals instinctively seek the sun (I'm watching my dogs and cats right now out in the garden, blissfully asleep while soaking in their daily dose of sunlight).

There is a real risk of skin cancer from exposure to sunlight, but our fears are often exaggerated. Many Filipinos have natural protection against the sun's rays, our dark skin due to melatonin, a pigment which is a natural sun block. The darker our skin, the less the need for sun block. Conversely, the darker our skin, the more exposure to sunlight we need if we want to get vitamin D production going to prevent the ailments I described earlier.

Our economy and our politics are probably greater causes of depression than sunlight deprivation, but it still makes good sense to rethink the way we build our homes, schools and offices. Before we fell for the American bungalow, so terribly inappropriate for a warm climate, Filipino homes, even the most humble *bahay kubo*, had a better fit with our environment. Built high with strategically designed windows and air wells, our homes allowed in the breeze and the sunlight even while keeping out rains, typhoons and predator creatures (especially the human kind).

Fortunately, there are still Filipino architects who are looking into an architectural revival of sorts. I'm thinking of Ning Encarnacion Tan, who has relocated to Bayombong to teach at St. Mary's College, hoping to produce a new generation of architects who'll appreciate indigenous designs when it comes to access to natural light and ventilation. A return to traditional sun-enriched wisdom will make for more environmentally appropriate buildings and, who knows, perhaps a healthier and more productive nation.

And let's not forget the happiness factor. Get out now for some of that sunlight. It certainly beats other serotonin-enhancing drugs.

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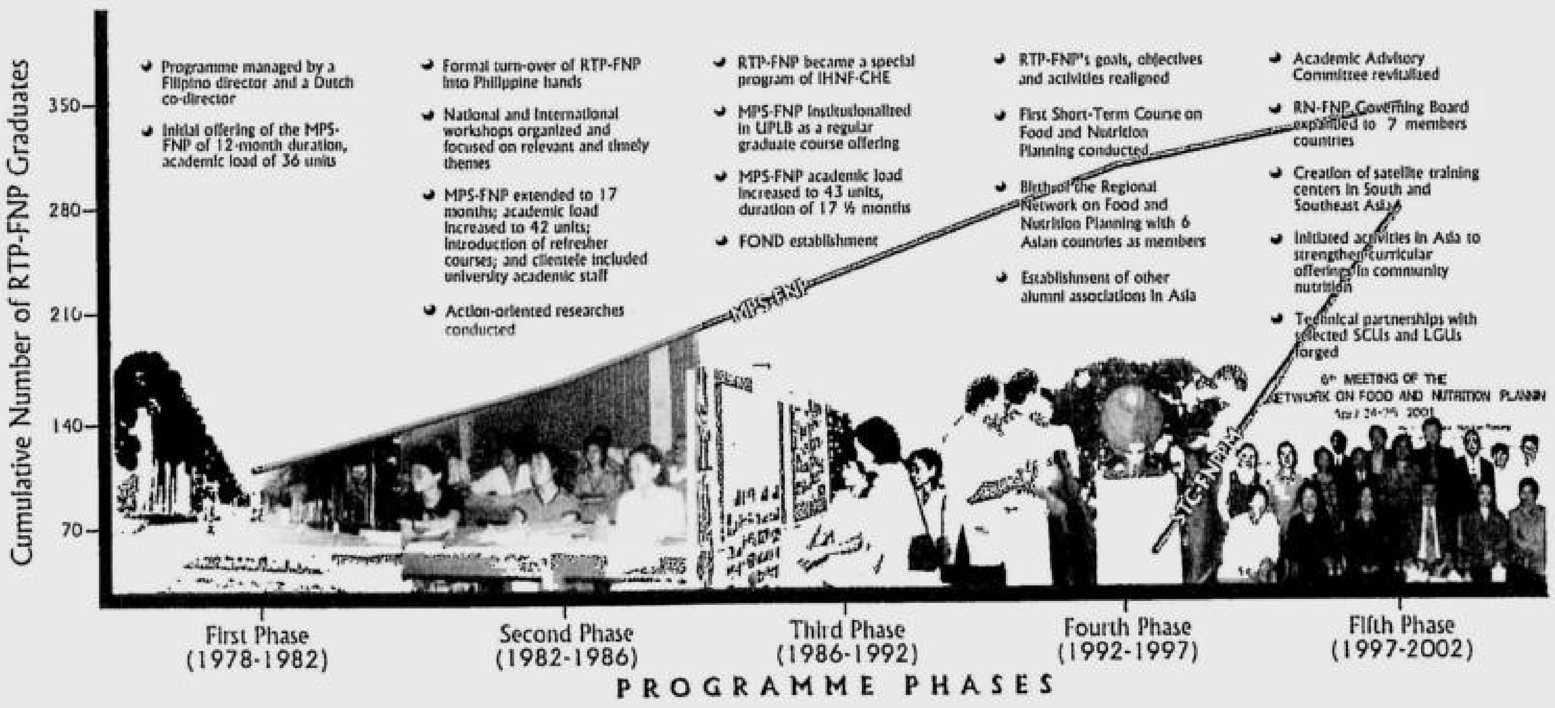

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RTP - FNP

Ex-mayor's son . . .

From page A1

motorcycle-riding hit men believed to be members of the so-called "Davao Death Squad" (DDS), a shadowy group seeking to rid the city of illegal drugs.

Hardly had the PDEA showed results, Sen. Robert Barbers volunteered to go after the "big fishes" with the help of his former comrades at the Manila Police: former Mayor Alfredo Lim, retired Col. Reynaldo Jaylo and retried Maj. Lucio Margallo.

Triple arrests

The triple arrests were conducted mainly by PDEA officials, backed by the Philippine National Police. Sison, 39, yielded P5,000 worth of shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) when he was arrested at his family's compound in Surallah, South Cotobato, according to Avenido.

He is said to be a top member of the South Cotabato Drug Group. His father Jose is a former Surallah town mayor and president of the Philippine Mayors League.

Avenido said the suspect topped the town's barangay anti-drug abuse council's list of drug pushers.

On Thursday, PDEA men seized from Hong one kilo of shabu valued at P2 million during a raid on Plaza Lacson in Quiapo, Manila.

The following day, airport police detained Takahasi for allegedly trying to smuggle 7,252 tablets and capsules of dangerous drugs out of the country. Some of them were diazepam tablets which are banned here, according to Avenido.

Three fall in Cebu

In Cebu, joint elements of the Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Bureau (CIIB) and the City Police Office-vice control section, recovered about 50 grams of shabu from Hegremosa and his two alleged cohorts during the operation.

Chief Insp. Marvin Sanchez, CIIB chief, identified the two as Bimbo Yap, who was the alleged owner of the house, and Moses Reyes of Barangay Mabolo.

A policeman and a civilian who posed as buyers negotiated with Hegremosa for the sale of 50 grams of shabu, according to Sanchez.

He said Hegremosa demanded P55,000 although the street value of the illegal substance could reach P100,000 at P2,000 per gram.

During the operation, Sanchez said Yap and Reyes were allegedly having a pot session. The three suspects, however, denied their involvement in illegal drugs.

Yap claimed that he did not know of Hegremosa's alleged illegal activities because Hegremosa merely rented the bunkhouse in his compound.

Hegremosa claimed that he stopped selling shabu after last year's bungled operation conducted by the NBI-7. Police said Hegremosa could dispose of 200 grams to 29 kilograms of shabu every week.

Aside from the drug charges to be filed against him and the two others, Hegremosa has a pending arrest warrant after he was charged with selling prohibited drugs.

Five members of the NBI-Central Visayas and a number of their confidential agents conducted an operation against Hegremosa on Dec. 13. The group, however, mistook an L300 van carrying Cebu Plantation Bay workers as the one being used by the suspect.

The NBI and the confidential agents chased and fired at the vehicle in Mandaue City. Five Plantation Bay employees were hurt and were brought to the hospital. The five agents and eight confidential agents were charged with multiple frustrated murder and double attempted murder.

Dismissal

The Office of the Ombudsman-Visayas (OMB-Visayas) also recommended the dismissal from the service of agent Angelito Magno and special investigators Arnel Pura, Danny Caray, Ray Tumalon and Teodoro Saavedra. Then NBI Regional Director Romulo Manapsal was recommended to be suspended for six months.

In Davao City, the latest killings happened yesterday morning in Bago Aplaya, Talomo district, and in Sta. Teresita, Buhangin district. Reports said the two victims were reportedly involved in the illegal drugs trade.

Michael Lu, alias Iking, was buying cigarettes from a store near his house in Ideal Subdivision, Bago Aplaya at around 10 a.m. when two men on board a motorcycle shot him in the head.

An hour later, motorcycle-riding men shot Ariel Epong, who was standing outside his house in Purok Anahaw, Sta. Teresita.

The latest killings happened while Chief Supt. Isidro Lapena, regional police chief, was holding a press conference where he was asked about the police action on the spate of killings.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte blamed an unknown "shadowy group" for the killings. "There are people who want to solve the problem (illegal drugs) in the quickest possible time," Duterte said on his TV-radio program *Gikan sa Masa, Para Sa Masa* on Sunday. "There is a shadowy group in Davao that does not like drugs," he said. ***With reports from Anthony S. Allada and Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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'Dirty Harry' gets marching orders

From page A1

the government's anti-drug dream team is Chief Supt. Romeo Maganto, head of Task Force Cervantes.

Ignorance of law

As Barbers expanded his turf, Senate President Franklin Drilon accused Bunye of ignorance of the law for saying that Barbers could directly supervise the renewed anti-drugs operations without quitting his post.

"Secretary Bunye is totally wrong and ignorant of the constitutional prohibition (against dual positions in government)," said Drilon at a press conference in the Senate yesterday.

"Senator Barbers can't do that. And he is fully aware of the constitutional restriction on members of the Senate, (so) he offered to resign," said Drilon.

The Senate president explained that allowing Barbers to have "operational direction" and "control" over the PDEA was tantamount to cloaking a member of the legislature with executive powers.

"If Senator Barbers would occupy such a post, it would be a public office," said Drilon.

PDEA chief Anselmo Avenido Jr. insisted that the PDEA was the lead agency in the fight against illegal drugs. "The President did not mention to us the creation of this 'super body,'" he said.

Lead agency

Any person or group that would volunteer in the campaign—Barbers included—should "fall under the mechanism wherein the PDEA is the lead agency" and should coordinate with the agency, Avenido said.

Avenido found an ally in House Minority Leader Rep. Carlos Padilla, who said the PDEA and not an ad hoc super body should lead the government's fight against illegal drugs.

Padilla said the President should use the duly constituted agencies and stop creating a super body for every major concern of her administration.

Drilon reminded Bunye that under Article 6, Section 13 of the Constitution, "no senator . . . or member of the House of Representatives may hold any other office or employment . . . during his term without forfeiting his seat."

"Neither shall he be appointed to any office which may have been created," he said.

In directing Avenido to report to Barbers, the latter was usurping "some portions of the sovereign functions of the government," Drilon said.

This, he said, would result in the forfeiture of the Senate seat of Barbers.

Quoting Appari vs. CA, Drilon explained that a public office "is one where a person or an individual is given an authority to exercise a part of the sovereign functions of the government for the benefit of the general public."

He said a public office was a "right, authority and duty" which could be "created and conferred by law or enduring at the pleasure of the appointing power."

Drilon said that besides the PDEA, the Barbers-proposed anti-drugs super body had all the elements of a public office.

Tap more competent people

Barbers has recommended to the President that she tap "more people with competence and integrity" and "those who have been working against drug trafficking for a long time" to join his group.

"I don't think we would be top heavy because this war requires a lot of warm bodies to implement. The drug problem is not confined to Metro Manila. It's all over the Philippines," he said.

Barbers said Lim and other experts would help make recommendations in strategy planning and make corrections in implementation.

"We need strong leaders and advocates mustering vigilant and committed communities. Every citizen must be responsible for the health and well-being of his or her fellow human being," the President said.

Barbers has likewise pushed for the hiring of more civilian agents to strengthen the PDEA's team of foot soldiers.

"The PDEA had always wanted to increase the number of its agents but the government had no budget. But this lack of funds has been addressed with the allocation of P1 billion from lotto money," Barbers said.

He said the PDEA should choose the most credible and reliable civilians to complement the PDEA's existing police agents.

The initial budget would allow for the hiring of at least 60 civilian agents but Barbers said he wanted 100.

Barbers said the three-month deadline set by the President was too short and that one or two years would be a more realistic timetable. "We are not supermen that we can solve this problem overnight."

He denied allegations that he only accepted the drugs czar position to boost his political stock in 2004. He is eligible for re-election as a senator once his six-year term ends next year.

"If there is politics here, why will I go to the extent of offering my resignation if I am politicking? I need my seat as senator for politics but the President will not let me resign," Barbers said. ***With a report from Cynthia D. Balana***

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Bali bombing suspect says he was tortured

DENPASAR, Indonesia—The man accused of authorizing the Bali bombings said Monday that Indonesian interrogators had indecently assaulted and tortured him to extract a statement.

MUKHLAS, also known as Ali Ghufron, a key suspect in last year's Bali bomb blasts, reads his statement inside the courtroom. REUTERS

Ali Ghufron, alias Mukhlas, is charged with overall responsibility for the attacks on two crowded nightspots last October that killed 202 people from 21 countries.

An impassioned Mukhlas told judges the record he had signed of his questioning was incorrect since he had undergone "mental pressure, including brutal and inhuman physical torture."

Mukhlas, who was arrested last December, said that three weeks after being moved to Bali he was interrogated by 10 people.

"I was stripped naked, without any single piece of clothing. For me as a Muslim... by God, being shot in the head several times is better than having my dignity and parts of my body that should not be seen sullied," he told the judges, reading from a prepared statement.

Police say Mukhlas is operations chief of the Jemaah Islamiyah terror group, which is blamed for the Bali bombings and a string of other blasts. Prosecutors say he authorized the plan to bomb Western holidaymakers in revenge for the "slaughtering" of Muslims worldwide by the United States and its allies.

Mukhlas said he was handcuffed so tightly that his nerves were still damaged. He said interrogators had laid him face up.

"Then I was handled in a barbaric way, in a way that would not be justified for a mad dog let alone a man with rationality and morals. They played with my genitals at their whim while laughing and uttering immoral words—this by someone who claims to be civilized," he said.

Mukhlas said interrogators beat his testicles dozens of times. "They shot (the scene) with a video camera saying that they will send it to my wife," he said.

"And while I was in that condition, I was shown pictures of naked women and there were many more actions and words from an imbecile, idiot and dumb human."

He said one interrogator had told him: "You said you had gone for jihad to Agfhanistan, that you know Osama bin Laden and that you wanted to go on jihad and die as a martyr, show us your courage... you are just like a woman."

Mukhlas, 43, has said he met Bin Laden in the late 1980s while they were fighting in Afghanistan. He named one of his sons Osama.

He said he saw a statement allegedly made by key fellow suspect Imam Samudra, that Abu Bakar Bashir knew about the plan to bomb Bali. JI's alleged overall leader Bashir is on trial in Jakarta for treason.

"I'm sure he (Samudra) would not have made things up if he had not been forced to," Mukhlas said.

He said he himself was also forced to make a false statement that Bashir had ordered the bombing and had ordered an attempt to assassinate Megawati Sukarnoputri before she became president. The attempt was not made.

Mukhlas said he was also forced to say that he regretted the bombing. "I know what I should be sorry for and not be sorry for," he added.

Prosecutors say Mukhlas felt "grateful" upon hearing reports of the Bali carnage because "the planned purpose has been achieved and had claimed many lives from America's allies, including Australians who died." *AFP*

Japan communists drop Marxist jargon

TOKYO—Calls to "Abolish the emperor!" and "Fight the army!" have fallen silent at the beleaguered Japanese Communist Party, which is dropping the age-old anti-imperialist battle cries in its biggest, most bourgeois, manifesto makeover to date.

The move, a first for the party and aimed at making it more politically viable, changes its platform to tolerate the existence of the Japanese royal family with its sprawling palace in downtown Tokyo, as well as the nation's well-armed and well-trained Self-Defense Forces.

"We needed to create a more realistic platform to participate in politics," said Kimitoshi Morihara, of the party's executive committee. "This is the 21st century."

The platform changes, introduced Saturday, aim to rekindle a party that once wielded political force but has been rendered nearly irrelevant by Japan's bustling economy and renewed tensions with North Korea that have fueled anti-communist opinion.

The changes still need approval at a party congress in November, but they underscore a shift in post World War II public sentiment, when many Japanese were incensed at an imperial system that led the country into battle and suspicious of reinstating a military force of any kind.

Today, calls to send the Japanese Self-Defense Forces overseas to aid the war against terrorism or peacekeeping missions still spur debate, but get widespread support among the public. Interest in Japan's royal family has also surged following the 2001 birth of Princess Aiko, a potential royal heir to Crown Prince Naruhito.

"The whole situation has changed," Morihara said.

The party's backing has slumped since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, largely due to its vehement opposition to the US anti-terror campaign. In recent elections, it has lost nine seats in Parliament, and now holds only 40 of 427 seats in both upper and lower houses.

"I would say it needs to broaden its support," said Shigenori Okazaki, a political analyst with UBS Warburg in Tokyo. "People aren't so interested in class struggle and revolution any more. It's kind of out of touch."

Instead of insisting on the "overthrow" of the emperor, the new platform calls for tolerating a symbolic monarchy, as outlined by the Japanese constitution. Abolishing the monarchy is still a long-term goal, Morihara said, but because the emperor is constitutionally barred from politics "there is no urgent need to touch the system."

The new platform also makes no mention of disbanding the Self-Defense Forces, as the current one does. Instead, it only urges that the military not be sent overseas.

In another sign of the times, the new platform wipes away Marxist jargon referring to the party as the "vanguard" of public trust. It is now open to cooperation with other parties to gain a foothold in future coalition governments, Morihara said. *AP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Hong Kong declared SARS-free

HONG KONG—The World Health Organization removed Hong Kong from its list of SARS-infected areas Monday, but warned the territory to keep up its guard against future outbreaks that might put it back on the list. Hong Kong's great concern is to avoid a repeat of what happened in Toronto, where a new outbreak was discovered after Canada's largest city was taken off the WHO's list. Two people died of SARS on Sunday in Toronto. Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa said the territory was "of course happy" about the WHO announcement, but he expressed sadness over nearly 300 deaths from the disease and cautioned, "this could come again." *AP*

US troops ambushed in Iraq

RAMADI, Iraq—Insurgents fired rocket propelled grenades at US Army patrols in two western Iraqi towns—the latest in an escalating series of attacks that included an ambush involving a 12-year-old girl, the military said Monday. No one was injured in the grenade attacks in Khaldiyah and Habaniyah, according to the overnight intelligence report distributed to Army commanders. Military officials said they had no information about reports that an air strike on a three-vehicle convoy fleeing Iraq near the Syrian border last Wednesday killed top officials in the government of former president Saddam Hussein, perhaps including Saddam or his sons. *AP*

Harry Potter sales hit 5M copies

WASHINGTON—He may still have to sweat for his degree in witchcraft and wizardry, but his marketing acumen will have any US business tycoon seethe with envy. Twenty-four hours after a new book about him hit the market, fictional boy magician Harry Potter from Hogwarts school of magic tricks sold an estimated five million copies for his US publisher, Scholastic Children's Books announced Sunday. With about two-thirds of the novel's initial print-run of 8.5 million copies already snatched up by eager buyers, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix" written by a rags-to-riches British author, J.K. Rowling, and priced at $29.99 a copy, broke all publishing records, gushed Barbara Marcus, president of Scholastic. *AFP*

Indonesia to test workers loyalty to state

JAKARTA—Indonesia plans to test its 4.1 million government workers to determine whether they are patriotic enough, a news report said Monday. Home Affairs Minister Hari Sabarno said the workers would be asked a series of unspecified questions and their loyalty to the state would be evaluated "from their answers," The Jakarta Post newspaper reported. Sabarno refused to say what would happen to workers who failed the test, which will be carried out in July, the report said. *AP*

4 more Palestinians killed

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip—Four Palestinian militants died, apparently when a bomb they were planting exploded in northern Gaza. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Israel could still build Jewish settlements in defiance of a US-backed peace plan. Also, a Hamas leader said that a reply to an Egyptian initiative for a limited ceasefire could come as soon as Monday, an Israeli paper reported. At first, Palestinian security officials said Israeli tanks fired shells late Sunday at a group of militants from the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigades, affiliated with the mainstream Fatah, killing three men and wounding four others, in the northeast Gaza town of Beit Hanoun. Another died later in a hospital, doctors said. However, later loudspeaker trucks drove through the area saying that the four died while "fulfilling their national duty," a phrase used in the past to announce the accidental deaths of people planning attacks against Israel. *AP*

Ship full of explosives seized

ATHENS—Greek officials were investigating on Monday whether 680 tons of explosives found on a ship seized off the coast and bound for Tunisia were destined for a terror organization. Bomb experts started examining the cargo and the Baltic Sky's seven crew were due to be questioned by a public prosecutor later in the day, officials said. *Reuters*

Slay try on Arafat debated

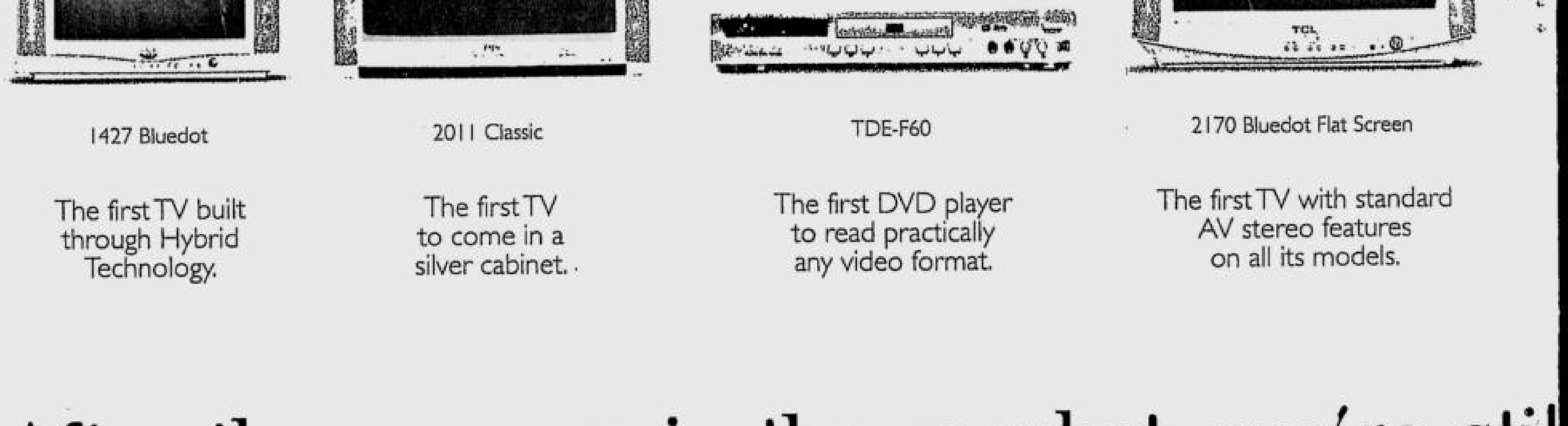
JERUSALEM—Israel debated assassinating Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Army chief of staff Moshe Yaalon admitted Monday in Israeli media.

"The question of why we didn't kill Arafat is worth a discussion," the daily Haaretz quoted the Army chief as telling a conference of the Beersheva chamber of commerce on Sunday.

"There were discussions about it in the past, but after weighing up the gains and benefits... we rejected the idea outright," Yaalon added.

Israel holds Arafat directly responsible for the almost 33-month-old cycle of violence, accusing the veteran leader of abetting attacks by militant groups, including the hardline Islamic movement Hamas.

Arafat has been holed up in his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah for a year and a half. After being besieged several times by the Army, he is now allowed to leave his battered office but has no guarantees he would allowed back in. *AFP*



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After three years in the market, we're stil

Chavit: 20% chance GMA will run

VIGAN CITY—Former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson said the chance that President Macapagal-Arroyo would run for president in 2004 has increased from zero to 20 percent.

Singson, who was recently named by Ms Macapagal as presidential adviser for the North Luzon Growth Management Area, said the people's endorsement would be crucial to the President's political plans.

"If majority of Filipinos would endorse her to run, I do not think she can refuse it," Singson said.

He did not explain how he arrived at the estimates on the President's decision to seek the presidency next year.

Ms Macapagal has repeatedly said that she would not reconsider her decision not to run for president in 2004. She made this public declaration on Dec. 30, 2002 during her Rizal Day speech in Baguio City.

Streamers bearing "2004 GMA Latta (2004 It's still GMA)" were prominently displayed in Banayoyo town during the President's visit on Saturday.

Ms Macapagal was Singson's special guest during the latter's 62nd birthday celebration in Banayoyo.

During her visit, the President announced the release of P104 million representing the tobacco excise tax shares of the Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, Abra and La Union.

She also promised another P2 billion to be released through a monetization or securitization scheme proposed by Ilocos officials.

Some Ilocano political leaders believed that the President would eventually change her mind and run.

Santa Mayor Jesus Bueno, president of the League of Municipalities of the Philippines-Ilocos Sur chapter, said the President's "body language" tells it all.

"She had been going around the country, and her political leaders are still behind her. Most of all, she is still the best bet," Bueno told the INQUIRER.

He said the President has received endorsements and support from local governments and nongovernment organizations in the country.

Singson said in case the President decides not to run, he would support the candidate that Ms Macapagal would endorse.

Singson reiterated his intention to run for governor of Ilocos Sur in 2004. He said among the reasons for his comeback bid is to prove to his critics that the people of Ilocos Sur still support him despite accusations of graft and other wrongdoings leveled against him.

Among Singson's possible opponents are former Ilocos Sur Board Member Efren Rafanan, Board Member Edgardo Zaragoza and lawyer Estelita Cordero, chair of the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

8 endangered birds seized in Sorsogon

LEGAZPI CITY—At least eight endangered birds were confiscated by the police at the Matnog port in Sorsogon on Saturday.

Supt. Eddie Binigay, Maritime Bicol Office director, said the policemen led by Insp. Perfecto Padilla were following up earlier reports of unabated transshipment of rare species of animals from Samar Island to Metro Manila, when they intercepted a certain Ronaldo Zartiga of Catbalogan, Samar in possession of young hornbills.

Karen Velasco, agricultural technician of Albay Park and Wildlife Center in Tagas, Daraga, Albay, identified two of the birds as Rufuos hornbill (*Boceros hydrocorax*) and six others including a Tarictic hornbill (*Penelopides panini*).

Binigay said the fast extinction of wildlife in the forests prompted their office to enforce habitat-related laws to protect wildlife from human exploitation.

The animals were donated to Albay Park and Wildlife Center as an added attraction to its visitors.

Zartiga was detained at the Matnog police jail, facing charges of violation of PD 474, according to the maritime office.

Matnog port is said to be one of the transshipment points of endangered animals from the Visayas for the Metro Manila market. *Joyce Mejillano, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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HEALTH WORKERS' PROTEST DENNIS JAY SANTOS
Several workers at the Davao Doctors' Hospital picket, demanding the implementation of wage increases and other benefits, that is part of their collective bargaining agreement.

Batanes-bound plane ditches in Laoag airport

LAOAG CITY—A twin-engine plane bound for Basco, Batanes suffered from a mechanical problem and hit a fence at the south end section of the Laoag International Airport, while the plane was undergoing a pre-flight test on Monday morning.

Initial reports from the Air Transportation Office said the aircraft, with body marking RP-C1262, of the Chemtrad Aviation Corp. suffered a brake system failure while on a high-speed taxi on the runway.

No one was reported hurt among the five crewmembers led by Capt. Orlando Cabellana and his co-pilot, Capt. Hercules Erespo.

Eduardo Robles, ATO area manager, said the plane's right wing was damaged while its left landing gear was twisted due to the accident.

"The plane's wing knocked off the airport's perimeter fence, which is still a blessing because it could have been worse," Robles told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

Robles said passengers bound for Basco have not yet boarded the plane as crewmembers were undergoing a pre-flight test before take-off.

Chemtrad Aviation has taken the Laoag-Basco-Laoag route formerly serviced by the Laoag International Airlines.

Operations of the Laoag Air had been suspended following the crash of its Flight 585 into the Manila Bay in November last year. Nineteen of its 34 passengers were killed in the crash. *Cristina Arzadon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NBI seeks freezing of fugitive Briton's assets

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The National Bureau of Investigation will ask the anti-money laundering council to freeze all the accounts and assets of a British national, who was arrested in Cebu last week because of his pending cases in United Kingdom.

"We will request the anti-money laundering council to freeze his accounts so that the money could not be withdrawn and brought elsewhere," said NBI director Reynaldo Wycoco.

Steen, wanted since 1977, was arrested last Thursday on Taho Street, Lapulapu City while driving his BMW car.

The Bureau of Immigration has conducted a summary deportation proceeding on Steen to determine if he has not violated any Philippine laws, said Geronimo Rosas, BI director for Central Visayas.

If he has not, Rosas said, Steen would be deported to the UK immediately. But the Briton would have to face the charges if he violated Philippine laws, he added.

Rosas said he learned that the British police had arrived in the country to fetch the Briton.

Steen was found to be living a very luxurious life while supposed to be "in hiding" in Cebu. He is reported to have an account of $3 million in a bank here.

The NBI also found out that Steen has two mansions worth P20 million each located at the Maria Luisa Estate Park in Banilad and at the White Sands Subdivision in Maribago, Lapulapu City.

He also owned a beach resort in Medellin, Cebu, the hometown of his Cebuana wife.

Steen's BMW car is worth P3 million. The car is now in the custody of NBI 7.

The joint team of operatives from the NBI and Bureau of Immigration in Central Visayas conducted the operation, after Wycoco received information from Durham constabulary in Britain last June 4 about the pending cases of Steen.

Wycoco said Steen is accused of defrauding countless of Britons of millions in British pounds through his Peninsular Holdings-Philippines Finance, which was considered a pyramiding scheme.

Steen had been placed on the UK's wanted list, after jumping bail in 1977. It was only recently that it was confirmed that he had gone into hiding in the Philippines. He entered the Philippines using fake papers, Wycoco said.

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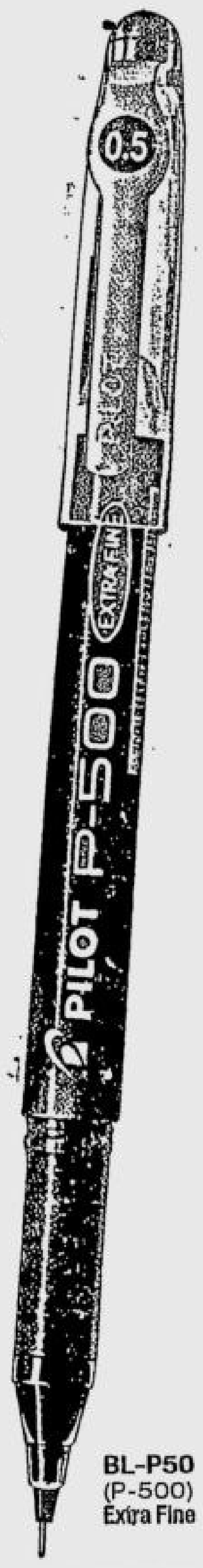

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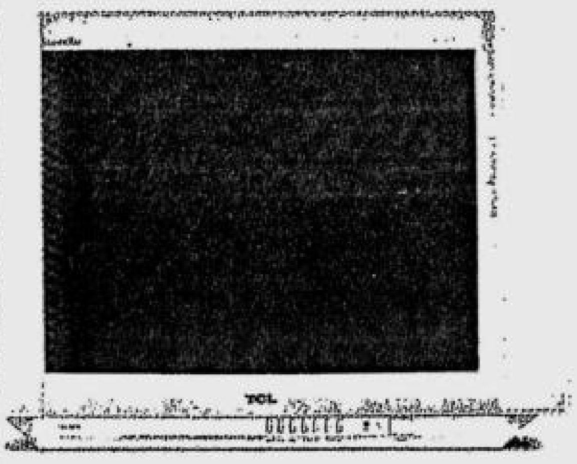

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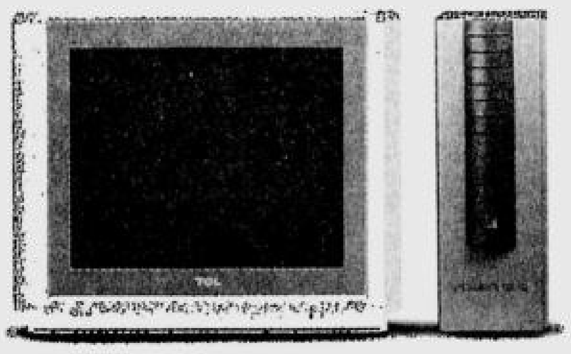

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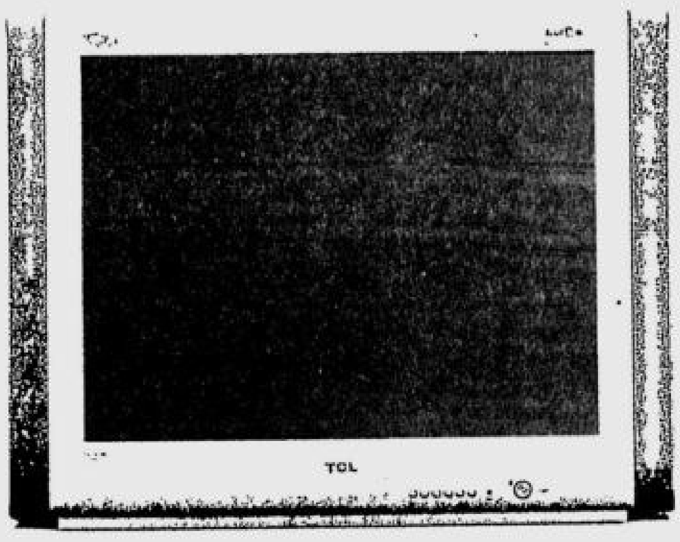

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Transfer of trial venue for radioman's slay asked

Countdown for Justice

WAPILE

IT IS exactly 407 days today since Pagadian journalist Edgar Damalerio was slain in cold blood. The principal suspect, police officer Guillermo Wapile, remains at large after escaping while in the custody of the police.

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

LUCENA CITY—The arraignment of the suspects in the killing of dwTI broadcaster Apolinario Pobeda did not push through for the second time yesterday as the two lawyers representing the family of the victim and the counsel for the defense, both asked for postponement for different reasons.

Public Interest Law Center (PILC) lawyer Marie Yuvienco said they had to petition the court for a transfer of venue for the trial as they are apprehensive that influential persons suspected of having links to the killing could exert undue influence in the legal process.

"We also fear for the safety of our witnesses," she said. "The suspected brain is very influential here and for sure will exert efforts to sabotage the truth," Yuvienco said.

Alvin Exconde, the lawyer for the defense, suspects Eulogio and Eric Patulay, also submitted a motion for re-investigation of the case.

Yuvienco said they received information that the suspected mastermind could also stage efforts to harass the witnesses and the authorities handling the investigation.

Another PILC lawyer, Rommel Quizon, also revealed another reason for their request for transfer of trial venue.

"The presiding judge and the suspected mastermind are very close to each other. They were classmates here," he said.

The arraignment is being heard before the sala of Judge Stephen Cruz, presiding judge of Regional Trial Court Branch 60.

Both the PILC lawyers did not identify the supposed mastermind.

But according to Quizon, "the media reports point to Lucena City Ramon Talaga Jr. as the alleged mastermind."

Quizon also raised an issue on the information that City Prosecutor Thelma Bustonera is a cousin of Talaga.

The embattled Talaga admitted that Bustonera is his first cousin but denied that he and Cruz were high school classmates in the former Maryknoll Academy. He said the judge was a much senior student than him during their stay in the school.

He said he welcomed the request for the transfer of the trial venue. "It's much better so that the trial will not be subjected to (a) barrage of malicious claims and accusations of perceived biases," Talaga told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

The spokesperson of the Justice for Polly Movement expressed full confidence on the direction of the trial as pursued by the PILC lawyers. "We know that we can also (obtain) justice for Polly. We leave the venue of the trial to the discretion of our lawyers," said Antonio Pobeda, also the uncle of the victim.

Yuvienco said the Justice for Polly Movement sought the legal assistance of the PILC in the pursuit of justice to the slain radioman.

"Pobeda's murder is also a violation of human rights just like with the rest of unsolved murder cases of at least 42 media men all over the country," she explained of their appearance as private prosecutors.

The Patulay brothers, suspects to the killing, traveled from Camp Vicente Lim in Canlubang, Laguna to Lucena escorted by heavily armed policemen.

Korean trader hunted for molesting kids

By Suzzane Salva and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A criminal complaint was filed Friday against a Korean businessman at the city prosecutor's office for allegedly molesting at least six minors.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group in Central Visayas (CIDG-7) filed the complaint for violation of the Special Protection Against Child Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Law, against Jong Keon Lee, also known as Dr. Johnson, 35.

Charged with Lee was Alona Sala, the Korean's secretary and alleged common-law wife.

The CIDG-7 members were locating the whereabouts of Lee and Sala. The Bureau of Immigration has also placed them under their watchlist.

Chief Insp. Ritchie Posadas, CIDG-7 deputy chief, said Lee's former bodyguard, Lito Agujar was under the custody of the CIDG-7 and was helping them locate the suspects.

The complaint was based on the affidavits of six minors, narrating how Lee allegedly raped them with the assistance of Sala.

The victims were between 13 to 15 years old and were residents of Cebu City.

One of them was Virgie (not her real name), who claimed the suspect raped her inside a hotel room in January.

In her affidavit, she said her three friends invited her on Jan. 18 to a birthday party at Sala's house in Barangay Mabolo.

To her surprise, Virgie said there was no party when they arrived. Instead, Sala told her to change her clothes and then brought her to a hotel.

Sala allegedly led her to a room in the 17th floor where she was introduced to Lee. The Korean then allegedly started to undress her.

"I begged Sala to help me to get out of the room but instead, convinced me to stay since we were already there," Virgie said.

She claimed that Sala promised to give her P15,000, a house and lot and a cellular phone if she agreed to go to bed with Lee.

"Lee with the assistance of Alona, who held my right hand, succeeded in his carnal knowledge (sic) two times on that night despite my resistance," Virgie added.

She said Sala then handed her P8,000 and a medicine to relieve the pain.

5 killed in Ilocos Sur road accident

CANDON CITY—Four members of a family and a woman were killed on Sunday after their tricycle collided with a bus in Barangay Ayudante here, police said.

The fatalities were Ricardo Acosta, 50; his wife Myrna, 50; their son Edward, 25, who was driving the tricycle; their daughter Fatima, 9; and a woman identified only as Lydia. The victims were residents of Sta. Lucia town.

Reports said the northbound tricycle overtook another vehicle but was hit by an approaching Dominion Bus driven by Bernardo Palad, 33.

Palad stepped on the brakes but still hit the tricycle that swerved to the southbound road shoulder, reports said.

The motorcycle and its sidecar were separated due to the collision impact. Palad surrendered to the Candon police. *Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, June 24, 2003
Birth of John the Baptist
1st Reading: Is 49:1-6
2nd Reading: Acts 13:22-26
Gospel: Lk 1:57-66, 80

When the time came for Elizabeth, she gave birth to a son. Her neighbors and relatives heard that the merciful Lord had done a wonderful thing for her and they rejoiced with her.

When on the eighth day they came to attend the circumcision of the child, they wanted to name him Zechariah after his father. But his mother said, "Not so; he shall be called John." They said to her, "No one in your family has that name"; and they asked the father by means of signs for the name he wanted to give. Zechariah asked for a writing tablet and wrote on it, "His name is John," and they were very surprised. Immediately Zechariah could speak again and his first words were in praise of God.

A holy fear came on all in the neighborhood, and throughout the Hills of Judea the people talked about these events. All who heard of it pondered in their minds and wondered, "What will this child be?" For they understood that the hand of the Lord was with him.

As the child grew up, he was seen to be strong in the Spirit; he lived in the desert till the day when he appeared openly in Israel.

Commentary

They could have followed custom and named their son after his father. They would have honored what God had done for them as well. Zechariah after all means "God remembers," and God gave them a son in answer to their prayers after seeming to have forgotten them for a long time. But husband and wife resisted social pressure, obeyed the angel's instruction, and named their son John, "Gift of God." God gives John not only a blessing to Elizabeth and Zechariah. His birth is not only a family affair. He would "prepare a people fit for the Lord." No one is actually only a gift to his or her family. Each one has a service to render to a wider world. Parents would do well to be generous and prepare them for their mission.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

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The Constitutional Amendments We Seek

WE ARE FOR A UNICAMERAL PARLIAMENTARY GOVERNMENT and a transition to a Federal System within ten years or less.

We are for holding elections every five years—to do away with expensive, divisive and highly partisan elections every three years that are corrupt- and fraud-ridden and influenced by drug lords and gambling syndicates.

We are against the extension of term limits for any—and all—elective officials.

And we are for the holding of elections in May as scheduled. Any claim to the contrary is black propaganda and does not represent our commitment.

From all over the world, the evidence is overwhelming. The parliamentary system rules in almost all states of Western and Central Europe, the new East European democracies and, across Asia—in Japan, China and India, and the new tiger economies of Southeast Asia in Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand—all the way down to Australia and New Zealand.

Under the parliamentary system, these nations have succeeded in creating millions of jobs and homes, hospitals and schools for the poor, and irrigation and farm-support systems that boosted food production.

The only presidential governments in our part of the world—those of the Philippines and Indonesia—are also among the region's worst-performing economies.

We have failed not just in creating jobs and providing homes for the poor. We have also failed, over four decades, in solving the festering problem of Communist and Muslim insurgencies.

Presidential rule has failed in the poor countries

WITH HIGH HOPES AND IN GOOD FAITH, the United States exported its presidential system and its bicameral Congress to the younger nations of Latin America in the nineteenth century.

And it is true presidential rule has worked well for the Americans—given that among them it is embedded in a federal union of strong and autonomous individual states. So that even when Washington D.C. has been beset by political gridlock because of policy differences between Congress and the White House, the state capitals have *not* suffered any ripple effect.

But, in Latin America, the presidential system with its bicameral legislature has produced a very different historical experience.

In these nations, senators and congressmen have all too often bickered, to the neglect of legislation; and Congresses have fought Presidents to crippling standoffs.

Paralyzed by factional quarrels and disdained by their exasperated electorates, the Latin-American politicians have been easy prey for ambitious generals and populist strongmen. From Mexico City to Montevideo, Latin-American capitals have all experienced spells of dictatorship.

In our own country, presidential rule has failed to bring about political stability and economic development. It has spawned a political culture that rewards populist personalities more than it does coherent programs of government. And it has exalted popularity over meaningful policy and substance.

Under the bicameral system, we have in effect not just two but three Congresses: the Senate, the House of Representatives, and the bicameral conference committee. The effect of this is to delay the passage of bills—from the ideal 30-60 days, to two years in the worst cases.

This defeats the purpose of legislation—and disregards the sense of urgency with which the nation must confront the issues and problems that bear crucially on the national life.

We Filipinos need *not* just a change of leaders *but* a change of systems.

Why a Constituent Assembly?

TO START OFF THIS CHANGE, we propose that the Senate and the House of Representatives be convened as a Constituent Assembly to revise the 1987 Charter in August-September this year, and to hold a national referendum in November-December this year for the Filipino electorate to approve or reject the amendments.

Our 1935, 1972 and 1987 charters all list such as an assembly as the *preferred* method of constitutional amendment because of its obvious advantages.

A Constituent Assembly is less divisive because it is less politicized than a Constitutional Convention.

Certainly it is the fastest mode, since senators and congressmen are well-versed in parliamentary rules and procedures. It is also the thriftiest mode, because the lawmakers already have staffs and budgets in place.

And the amendments it will introduce—once ratified by the national electorate—can take effect beginning with the elections of May 2004.

In contrast, a Constitutional Convention would cost P8 billion upward to run. With two delegates elected from every Congressional district, the country would have 420 new politicians—twice the size of Congress—each requiring an office and a staff. And the amendments such a Convention will draft would take effect in 2010 at the earliest—at the end of the next presidential cycle.

'Now or Never' for Charter revision

WE DON'T INTEND TO DISCARD, only to amend, the 1987 Charter, which has many outstanding provisions.

We therefore ask the Senate to concur with House Resolution No. 16 and convene Congress into a Constituent Assembly this August.

Otherwise, all hopes for charter revision will be dashed. And the next opportunity for such a revision will not come again until 2010.

It is "Now or Never" for charter revision!

That is why our people, seeing the logic of our arguments, have formed a clear national consensus for constitutional revision through a Constituent Assembly.

In obedience to this clamor, we see our duty as ensuring that the 1987 Charter is amended—this year!

We declare our support for a Constituent Assembly!

- **League of Provinces with 79 members**
- **League of Cities with 114 members**
- **League of Municipalities with 1,496 members**
- **House of Representatives and the Sunshine Coalition**
- **Federation of Regional Development Councils**
- **Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines Foundation**
- **All-Workers Alliance Trade Unions**
- **Council of Christian Bishops**
- **Philippine Constitution Association**
- **500 non-government organizations**
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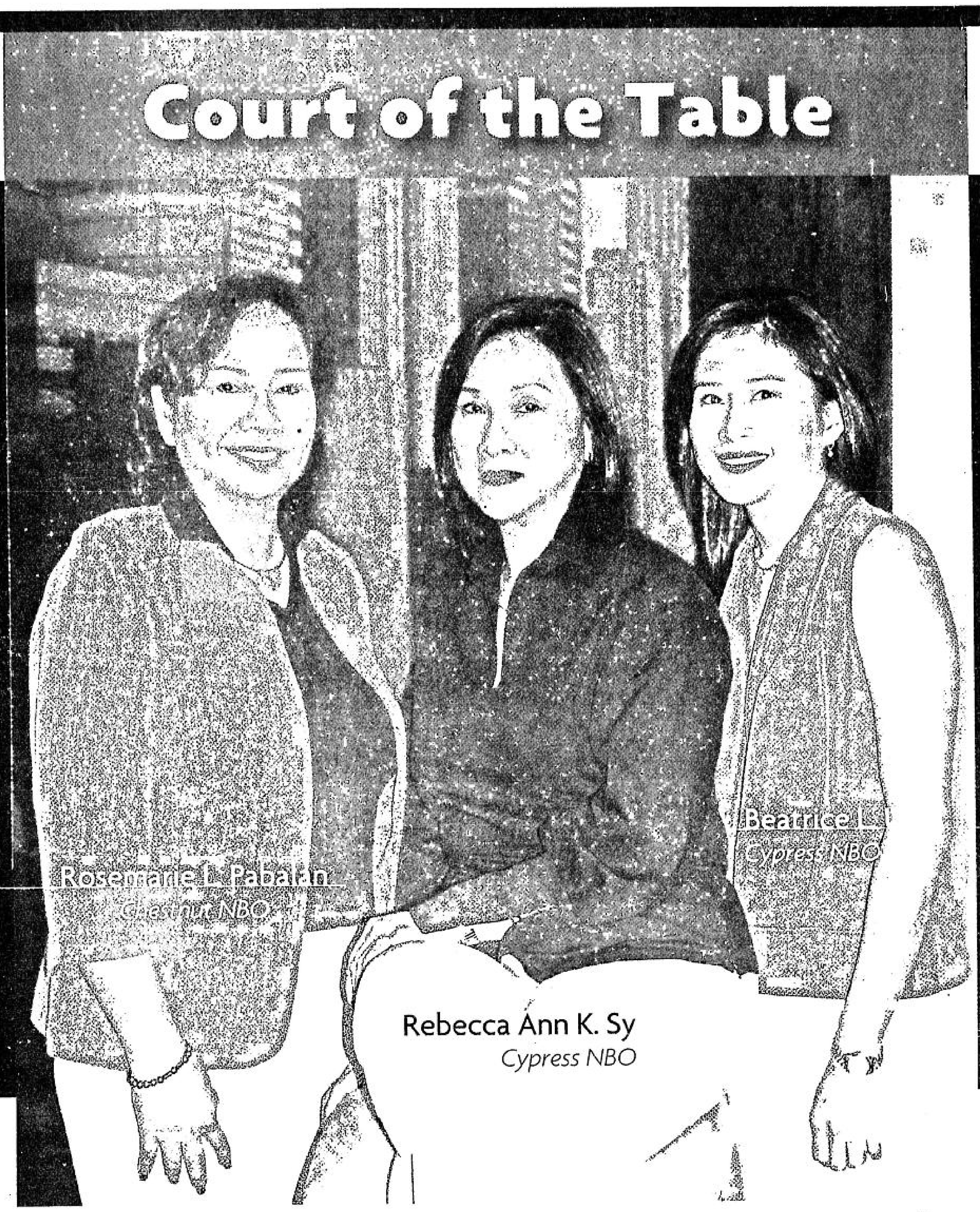

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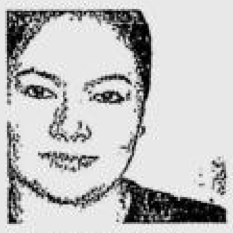
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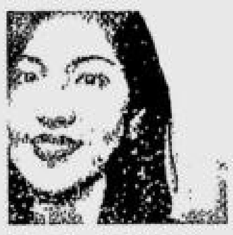
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World gets smaller for RP smoker

From page A1

The Tobacco Regulation Act was also supported by the country's top cigarette makers Fortune Tobacco Corp. and Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. Philip Morris, which manufactures Marlboro, has recently opened a $300-million facility in Batangas.

Antonio Abaya, a retired general and current president of the Fortune Tobacco Corp., said the new law would not affect the cigarette maker that much because the company has adjusted to tougher anti-smoking rules that the World Health Organization has been pushing worldwide in the past few years.

"Our sales will go down but it won't go down as much as advertising revenues of media companies and agencies when the advertising and sponsorship ban takes effect within the next five years," Abaya said.

Manila Rep. Harry Angping estimated that cigarette firms was spending between P1.5 billion and P2 billion in advertising money every year. He said ad agencies and media outfits had five years to find other ad spenders to fill the void the cigarette firms would leave behind.

Advertising that is now widespread on television, radio and billboards will be phased out starting on Jan. 1, 2007.

A complete ban on ads—as well as sponsorship by tobacco companies of sports, cultural or educational events—will take effect on July 1, 2008.

Chris Nelson, managing director of Philip Morris Philippines, said his company was pleased that the comprehensive tobacco regulation covering the manufacture, sale and use of tobacco products was approved after years of deliberation. "It gives us a clear picture of the ground rules and enables us to plan for the future," Nelson said. "We prefer clear and effective regulation which lays down a standard for all companies."

"Regulation offers a long-term solution to tobacco issues that can benefit the public health objectives and our business goals," Nelson added.

Public places

The new law also gives more teeth to existing laws that prohibit smoking in public places, the placement and size of health warnings on packages and labels, and the sale of tobacco products to those below 18 years old.

But while the new law would make it tougher for cigarette makers to sell their goods and for smokers to enjoy their vice, Angping said that just like in the United States and other countries with tough anti-smoking rules in place, the cigarette industry would survive.

"I think no matter what you do, there will still be people who will smoke," Angping said.

Under the new law, the government will strictly implement a smoking ban in all public places, including schools, recreational facilities and areas frequented by children as well as in hospitals, clinics, laboratories and restaurants, among others.

Those found violating the law could be slapped with heavy fines and jailed for up to three years, depending on the gravity of the offense, the Palace said.

Health Secretary Manuel Dayrit has said studies showed smoking cost the country about P42 billion last year in medical expenses for tobacco-related diseases and loss of productivity.

Tobacco firms facing bans, lawsuits and high taxes in developed markets have been keen to expand in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

The WHO estimates that smoking kills 4.9 million people around the globe each year. *With reports from AFP, Reuters*

Fast Facts

- 34 million or about one in 3 adult Filipinos smoke according to a 1999 study (about 60 percent).
- 35 million Filipinos are passive smokers or 60 percent of all Philippine households are not smoke-free. Exposure to environmental smoke (ETS) is also very high in public places. Over 7 in 10 students are exposed to smoke in public places, according to the 2000 Global Youth Tobacco Survey of the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control. Four in 10 students think smoking should be banned in public places.
- 40 percent of adolescent boys (aged 10-14) while 19 percent of adolescent girls or about 2.5 million young Filipinos smoke. Another 6 percent were former smokers. About 38 percent of both males and females aged 15 to 19 or about 3.1 million are already considered regular smokers. The majority of these young smokers said peer pressure was one reason why they took up smoking. Most now wish they did not smoke and about two-thirds have tried to give up.
- 26.5 percent of young never smokers are likely to initiate smoking next according to the Global Youth Tobacco Survey completed in 2000 by the World Health Organization and Center for Disease Control.
- 44.8 percent of young smokers buy cigarettes in a store and 46.6 percent of them were NOT refused purchase because of their age.
- 200,000 Filipino men will develop smoking-related diseases in their productive years of age. These diseases include trachea, lung and bronchus cancer; lip, oral cavity and pharynx cancer; ischemic heart disease; stroke and other diseases of the circulatory system.
- P43 billion is the estimated cost to taxpayers in 1999 to provide healthcare for these sick men, and the loss in productivity.
- 20,000 is the estimated number of smoking-related deaths in the country every year.
- 20 percent of household income of smokers' families is estimated drained for tobacco use.
- Many vendors of cigarettes are children.

Source: World Health Organization Regional Office for the Western Pacific Factsheet, May 28 2002; Senate Committee on Health and Demography White Paper on Tobacco, 1999; Global Youth Tobacco Survey, 2002 (GYTS) Factsheet retrieved from http://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/global/gyts/GYTS_factsheets.htm

New Philip Morris plant starts exports next month

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE WORLD'S largest tobacco company, which opened a manufacturing plant in Batangas recently, will start exporting cigarettes by the middle of next month.

Philip Morris Philippines Inc. managing director Chris Nelson said the company's cigarette export program would start with a first shipment to Thailand.

Nelson said the company had yet to determine the volume it would ship to Thailand, and whether it would export cigarettes to other Asean countries as well.

Philip Morris built its factory inside the Philippine Industrial Park, which allows it to use fiscal incentives enjoyed by export-oriented firms in special economic zones.

But Nelson said the firm had not yet applied for incentives with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

Ecozone locators are required to export at least 70 percent of their production to become eligible for fiscal perks such as tax- and duty-free importation of capital equipment and low gross income taxes.

Philip Morris invested $300 million to build the 25-hectare Batangas complex which would double its production to an estimated 40 billion cigarettes a year. The company said this was its single biggest investment in Asia.

Philip Morris has plants in Malaysia and Indonesia and the reduction of tariffs on intra-regional trade is expected to spur cigarette exports in the region. Philip Morris has trained its sights on Asia because of rising anti-smoking regulation in its home markets.

The Philippines is the 15th biggest consumer of cigarettes in the world and the second in Southeast Asia, behind Indonesia.

The US firm has taken over the manufacture and marketing of Marlboro and Philip Morris brands in the country after its license agreement with La Suerte Cigar & Cigarette Factory expired last year.

La Suerte, which had been selling Marlboro and Philip Morris since 1955, and Philip Morris failed to come to terms. The Filipino group was offered only a 20-percent stake in the venture.

La Suerte is currently selling its own brands in the market.

2 brave Eastern . . .

From page A1

licemen were outnumbered and "could have easily surrendered and yet, they fought bravely and repelled the rebels."

Even so, the Communist Party of the Philippines said the NPA, its armed wing, would step up its attacks across the country despite its foiled attack on Quinapondan.

"It's no big deal . . . It's part of the struggle," CPP spokesperson Gregorio "Ka Roger" Rosal said. "The NPA unit concerned will just conduct a serious evaluation of the incident to learn the lessons that the incident may provide. It's that simple."

Gannaban, police station commander in Quinapondan, was in high spirits when the INQUIRER talked to him at the Remedios Trinidad Romualdez (RTR) Hospital in Tacloban City. Gannaban, who was wounded in the gun battle, underwent a six-hour operation at the RTR Hospital to remove a bullet in his right shoulder.

"We only did what was expected from us," the 46-year-old officer told the INQUIRER.

Gannaban recalled that he was about to leave the police station to attend a seminar when Graza informed him about a group of armed men in fatigues rushing to their station.

They immediately positioned themselves on the second floor balcony. Gannaban grabbed a .38 cal. revolver and Graza an M-14 Armalite rifle.

When the rebels told them to surrender, Gannaban said he and Graza opened fire on the attackers. Unknown to Gannaban, an NPA group formed a blocking force on the highway leading to the town. Another NPA group surrounded the house of the town mayor, while other rebels ransacked the homes of the policemen.

Gannaban said he tricked the rebels into believing that he was radioing the nearby Hernani town police station for reinforcements.

"I purposely raised my voice so they would hear me supposedly asking for reinforcement," he said. The rebels did not know that a stray bullet had destroyed the station's radio unit.

Gannaban said the ruse prompted the rebels to withdraw. Fifteen minutes later, reinforcements from neighboring towns arrived.

It was the second time that the NPA raided the town. On July 22, 1985, the NPA attacked the police station and fled with several firearms. The raid was over in 20 minutes. Five policemen on duty did not offer any resistance, and the police chief then hid in one of the houses.

Tayug assassination

The attack on Quinapondan coincided with the NPA assassination of Mayor Guerrero Zaragoza of Tayug, Pangasinan. Zaragoza and a civilian were killed while several other bystanders were wounded when suspected NPA rebels fired at the mayor outside the town's cockpit.

Senior Supt. Mario Sandiego, Pangasinan police director, said NPA documents showed that the mayor was placed on the rebel hit list in connection with several murders, including the killings of a town councilor's supporters.

Sandiego said police had beefed up Zaragoza's security in the face of the NPA threat.

Zaragoza's daughter Rowena Bernabe, former mayor of Natividad town, said her father never told his family about any death threats.

"We warned him to be careful, but he maintained that he did not commit any wrongdoing," Bernabe said, adding his father "must have been misunderstood because he talked loudly." *With reports from Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

GMA wary, Reyes satisfied with Salamat stand

From page A1

ic teachings. Reyes said this was a "big step" toward the resumption of stalled peace talks between the government and the MILF.

"This is definitely good news for all of us, especially for us in the government who have been reaching out to the MILF so we could all go back to the negotiating table and sign the final peace agreement," Reyes said.

Reyes voiced his hope that Salamat would follow up his statement with an acceptance of the government's offer of a permanent ceasefire, which he said would put a stop to "these senseless killings."

"This is a big step toward confidence-building measures between the two parties. We all hope that Mr. Salamat will heed our call for a permanent ceasefire," Reyes said in a statement.

Breaking his silence, Salamat on Sunday denied any links with the regional terrorist group Jemaah Islamiah, even as he vowed to revive peace talks with the government.

Foreign Secretary Blas Ople yesterday also said Salamat's statement was "welcome news."

But Ople, interviewed before addressing employees on the 105th anniversary of the Department of Foreign Affairs, said the sincerity of Salamat and the MILF was still "subject to proof."

"We have to see them stop all their activities against civilians and there must be no further bombings," Ople told reporters.

In yet another peace overture, the MILF yesterday gave Malacañang its assurance that Salamat would have a "significant participation" in the peace talks—a new precondition laid down by the government.

The announcement, however, came from a Palace official: Renato de Villa, presidential adviser on strategic concerns.

De Villa said Norberto Gonzales, the President's special adviser on Mindanao affairs who is meeting with MILF negotiators in Kuala Lumpur in informal talks, relayed the assurance during last night's meeting of the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security.

"Secretary Gonzales said he was able to talk to responsible representatives of the MILF out there and he was told that there will be a significant participation or attendance of the chair in the peace talks," De Villa said.

He said that as far as Gonzales was concerned, "that can be considered a commitment."

He said this was more or less acceptable to Malacañang.

"Our position is for (Salamat) to be . . . present at least at the start of the negotiations and be the signatory to the final document," he said.

"Secretary Gonzales said he had it on good advice that Mr. Salamat would be there and will participate in some of the discussions and actually be the signatory. So that issue is more or less settled—more or less, because we have to validate that in a formal presentation," De Villa said.

But MILF spokesperson Eid Kabalu said Murad Ebrahim, rebel group's military chief, would continue to sit as head of the group's peace panel once negotiations resume.

"That's already a decided issue," Kabalu told the INQUIRER.

In Malacañang, presidential spokesperson Ignacio Bunye explained Ms Macapagal's cautious response.

Bunye said the President's call for a calibrated response was prompted by the discovery of two huge cachés of C4 explosives linked to the MILF.

He said that because of this, the President issued a new statement which tempered the government's initial response to Salamat's statement on Sunday.

Bunye said Salamat had "complied" with the President's demand for the MILF to renounce terrorism.

"Unfortunately, there is a new development and that is the capture of two huge cachés of C4 explosives. This development had cast a shadow on what otherwise would have been a very positive development," Bunye said in a briefing in the afternoon.

He said more explosives of the same amount were still missing.

As a result, Bunye said the government would "go one step at a time."

"The government will respond in accordance with this latest development," he said.

Bunye said the Cabinet Oversight Committee on Internal Security had been tasked by the President to submit a proposed roadmap for a final peace agreement with the MILF.

The charge d' affairs of the Indonesian embassy in Manila, however, expressed doubts whether the MILF and the JI really had nothing to do with each other. *With reports from Gerald Lacuarta; AFP, AP; Edwin Fernandez, Charlie Señase, Julie Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Christian V. Esguerra*

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Ping used up P147-M pork fund last year

From page A1

Pork barrel refers to money from the national budget that finances projects identified by legislators. As much as 60 percent of the budget for an infrastructure project is lost to corruption, according to Lacson.

Except for Senators Joker Arroyo and Sergio Osmeña III, all the other 22 senators either exhausted or used up a huge chunk of their pork barrel, according to records of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM). Of the P200 million allocated for the pork barrel of each senator, only P150 million was released in 2002.

Arroyo and Osmeña did not avail themselves of a single centavo from their pork barrel called Priority Development Assistance Fund, formerly the Countrywide Development Fund, a source of kickbacks and campaign funds for legislators.

Pork barrel is composed of two items: the so-called "PDAF soft" allocation and appropriations from the Department of Public Works and Highways.

DBM records showed that as of Dec. 31, 2002, Lacson had availed himself of a total of P147 million, or just P3 million short of his entire allocation of P150 million.

Lacson had utilized P100 million as of Sept. 7, 2002 and P47 million at the end of last year, according to DBM records.

On Feb. 26, 2003, Lacson delivered a privileged speech condemning the pork barrel system. Lacson said yesterday that when he announced that he was giving up his pork he was referring to funds coming in this year. He said he wanted to help the government deal with its huge budget deficit.

Corruption

He said he was also disappointed with the way the pork barrel seemed to be "attended with corruption." The senator said he had filed several graft cases against local officials suspected of having made money from the pork barrel allocated to him in 2001 and 2002.

Among those he charged with graft in the Office of the Ombudsman were a regional director of the Department of Public Works and Highways, a district engineer and a municipal mayor.

If Lacson was P3 million short of exhausting his pork allocation in 2002, eight senators used up their respective allocations, to the last centavo.

Those who fully used up their allocation were Senators Edgardo Angara, Noli de Castro, Luisa Ejercito Estrada, Juan Flavier, Gregorio Honasan, Ralph Recto, Ramon Revilla Sr. and Vicente Sotto III.

Senators Ramon Magsaysay Jr. and Manuel Villar Jr. used up P78.5 million and P90 million, respectively.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon used up P149,950,000; Sen. Francis Pangilinan, P149,000,000 and Sen. Teresa Aquino Oreta, P140,000,000.

The rest of the senators availed themselves of their pork barrel as follows: Robert Barbers, P102.3 million; Renato Cayetano, P139,500,000; Franklin Drilon, P101,000,000; Robert Jaworski, P112,000,000; Loren Legarda Leviste, P110,000,000; Blas Ople, P103,000,000; John Henry Osmeña, P105,980,393 and Aquilino Pimentel Jr., P117,750,000.

Revilla and Cayetano

A senator's availment of his pork barrel is not defined by party affiliation. Even Revilla and Cayetano, who have been sick and largely indisposed, had drawn heavily from their pork barrel at P150 million and P139,500,000, respectively.

Neophyte legislators De Castro and Pangilinan also used up their pork barrel extensively—P150 million and P149 million, respectively.

Ople, who was appointed secretary of foreign affairs in August 2002, managed to draw a total of P103 million as of Dec. 31, 2002.

Unlike congressmen who represent legislative districts, senators can spend their pork barrel on projects in any part of the country or for specific sectors.

Congressmen have a smaller pork barrel than senators. A congressman is entitled to P65 million in PDAF and a minimum of P35 million in public works funds.

Manila cops berated by 'Rosebud'

By Luige del Puerto

CONTROVERSIAL former anti-narcotics agent Mary "Rosebud" Ong lashed out Sunday night at Western Police District lawmen over the arrest of her nephew for a traffic violation in Manila.

In a phone interview, Ong said she got angry because her nephew, Blaessius John Ong, 23, was handcuffed and allegedly threatened by Police Officers 2 Job Jimenez and Leo Coronado of the WPD Mobile Patrol Unit.

Information gathered by the INQUIRER showed that at around 10:30 p.m. Sunday, the younger Ong entered Pablo Ocampo Sr. (formerly Vito Cruz), a one-way street.

The lawmen tried to apprehend him but he allegedly tried to drive away then later resist arrest.

Consequently, the lawmen reportedly handcuffed Blaessius before taking him to the Ospital ng Maynila to check whether he was driving under the influence of drugs or alcohol.

At the hospital, Ong arrived and talked to the arresting lawmen.

A policemen quoted her as saying in Filipino, "I should not bother myself with you since you are insignificant. I could have you fired from the service."

But Ong denied saying any of these. "I told them that if I filed a case with the National Police Commission, they could be dismissed," she said.

However, she said she had decided not to press charges since "they are still very young police officers. They could still reform."

She added that they have apologized to her about the incident.

Blaessius was brought to the WPD-Police Station 9 but was released yesterday morning. No charges were filed against him.

Transport groups take on Pasig

City to issue own TVRs, apply own traffic laws

By Leila Salaverria and Amy Remo

TRANSPORT groups yesterday sought the Court of Appeals' help to stop the Pasig City government from issuing its own traffic violation receipts (TVRs) to offending motorists.

In a petition seeking a temporary restraining order, the transport groups claimed that Pasig City's traffic ordinance is illegal because it violated RA 7924, or the Metro Manila Development Authority Act.

Under the act, the MMDA has the mandate to oversee traffic and implement a single ticketing system in Metro Manila.

Transport groups have since backed the MMDA on the issues of traffic management and single ticketing system. They argued that the mayors' plan would only result in chaos.

"We'd rather have the MMDA and a single ticketing system," said Efren de Luna, president of the Philippine Confederation of Drivers Organization—Alliance of Concerned Transportation Operators. "Once the resolution comes out, we would stop all other local governments from implementing their own ticketing system."

The Pasig City ordinance, which the local council passed in January this year, enabled city officials to issue its own TVRs with the corresponding set of fines and penalties.

Transport officials described the city ordinance as "unauthorized, unwarranted and unjustified."

Although MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando said he would not argue with the mayors anymore over their plan to issue their own TVRs, he still urged local executives to rethink their position.

"(The MMDA) will only act on what (the mayors) want, but they would have to contend with the existing law," Fernando said.

When it comes to legal issues, Fernando said he would leave it to the courts to decide if the mayors' move to implement their own ticketing system would be legal. He added that it is also up to those who would be affected by this move to challenge or question the mayors' action.

In the Court of Appeals petition, the transport groups claimed that Pasig City had also empowered a local traffic management authority to require all public vehicles to use the city's passenger terminals.

The groups claimed that this requirement violated E.O. 125, which states that the authority in designating transport terminals in the local and national level rests on the Department of Transportation and Communication (DOTC).

Allowing local governments to implement their own traffic systems could only lead to confusion, the groups said. They added that the DOTC mandate to coordinate "networks of transportation" would be useless.

Also, the groups claimed that they were confused over the city's ticketing system. They said that it would have an impact on fare prices brought about by the cost of terminal fees.

They also said that the TVRs issued by Pasig City enforcers would be useless.

The drivers said they could not use the Pasig City receipts as temporary licenses because the MMDA would not honor these.

Redemption of licenses in Pasig City costs P500, according to the transport groups, whereas with the MMDA, redemption costs only P150.

MANILA Mayor Lito Atienza takes President Macapagal-Arroyo on a stroll through the newly opened Muelle Del Rio park by the Pasig River.

EDWIN BACASMAS

A new park opens in Manila

By Margaux Ortiz

AFTER the success of Baywalk on Roxas Boulevard, the newly inaugurated Muelle Del Rio Park in front of the Bureau of Immigration and the National Press Club buildings is set to become Manila's next prized recreational area, according to Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr.

Atienza made this declaration in his speech yesterday at the inauguration of the park.

President Macapagal-Arroyo was the guest of honor in the inauguration rites.

The park is part of the city's Pasig River promenade project, which, Atienza said, would "breathe new life to the historic river which has also given life to the cities beside it."

Muelle Del Rio Park, also called the Philippine Mexican-Friendship Plaza, was built in 1963 to mark four centuries of Mexico-RP relations, Atienza said.

"No less than the former first lady, Eva Macapagal, mother of our president, headed the construction of this park," Atienza said.

Reconstruction of the park took place from May 18 to June 22. It now resembles promenade areas in other countries like Clarke Quay and Boat Quay in Singapore.

The Muelle Del Rio Park, which spans 1.6 kilometers from Maestranza to Jones Bridge, is patterned after the design of Baywalk, with its colorful tiles and unique lamplights, Atienza said.

He said the Muelle Del Banco on the Escolta side would be the next to be developed.

Miami ship explosion claims 7th RP seaman

By Martin Marfil

THE FIRE which killed six Filipino crewmembers of the *SS Norway* claimed the life of a seventh seaman. Belated reports reaching the Department of Labor and Employment identified the seventh fatality as Rolando Tejero of Tarlac.

He died on Friday in a US hospital, a report reaching the labor department said.

Four Filipino seamen—Ricardo Rosal, Ramil Bernal, Candido Valenzuela and Rene Villanueva—were killed on May 25 when the boiler room of the cruise ship exploded while it was docked in Florida.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian Cruise Lines (NCL) has expressed deep regret over the demise of Tejero.

In a statement, Ms. Doris Ho, chairperson of NCL's manning agent, Magsaysay Maritime Corporation, condoled with Tejero's family.

NCL also assured those concerned that benefits and compensation will be settled promptly.

HAPPY TO BE HERE

TOURISTS from Hong Kong and other Asian countries are now coming to the Philippines in droves, now that the threat of SARS has become scarce in this part of the world.

ROGER MARGALLO

Barbers might uncover Lacson's secrets

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

SEN. Panfilo Lacson must be having a king-size headache these days.

Lacson has had enough problems trying to extricate himself from the Kuratong Baleleng multiple murder case and to avoid a warrant of arrest that will come his way as soon as the Supreme Court rules that the case can already be tried in the lower courts. Persons charged with murder are not allowed to post bail.

And now comes Sen. Robert Barbers demanding that he be investigated for drug trafficking and kidnapping.

* * *

Barbers, chair of the Senate committee on security and illegal drugs, says that his committee and those of two other committees have come up with Senate Committee Report No. 66.

Committee Report 66 recommends that the Department of Justice "pursue the investigation of Lacson and other police officers" for kidnapping for ransom and drug trafficking.

The other committees that took part in making the report were those of national defense, chaired by Sen. Ramon Magsaysay, and blue ribbon, led by Sen. Joker Arroyo.

* * *

Senators who are members of the three committees compose the majority of the Senate.

This means that most of his colleagues believe that Lacson was involved in illegal drug deals and kidnapping for ransom.

Most noteworthy is that Arroyo, a maverick senator, affixed his signature to Committee Report 66.

* * *

Lacson can't claim that the Senate report is political harassment from his opponents.

Arroyo would never have tolerated the use of a report against a colleague as an instrument for political harassment. He's much too decent for such pettiness.

Although his first name suggests frivolity, Arroyo takes his work in the Senate seriously. He's such a serious worker he doesn't entrust legislative work to his staff, unlike some of his colleagues.

So, between Lacson, who says one thing but means another— "I can't enter politics because I hate politicians" is his famous line—and Arroyo, whom would you believe?

* * *

Barbers, who has been appointed drug czar by the President, might yet stumble on Lacson's skeletons in the closet when the renewed anti-drug campaign goes full blast.

And that's what Lacson is probably afraid of because no secret goes unexposed for long.

That's why the neophyte senator is now saying that Barbers is being used by the Macapagal-Arroyo administration to harass him.

* * *

That kidnapping-for-ransom charge against Lacson in the Senate Committee Report 66 is very interesting.

It seems to tally with stories, albeit unsubstantiated, that the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force nurtured some small-time kidnap- for-ransom gangs that it would "bust" later on.

The kidnap-for-ransom gangs, under the PAOCTF wings, operated with impunity until they were "ripe" for destruction and their members were killed in "shootouts."

* * *

Some poor Chinese-Filipinos who were "rescued" by the PAOCTF thought that the thing was for real and became Lacson's adherents.

These former Chinoy kidnap victims and their families are now Lacson's "*baka*" or milking cows in his crack at the presidency in 2004.

Kinidnap na sila, ginagawa pang gago!

* * *

Senator Barbers, as the government's drug czar, will be recruiting Alfredo S. Lim, former Manila police chief, former director of the National Bureau of Investigation, former Manila mayor, and former secretary of interior and local governments, to dismantle big drug syndicates.

Lim will be working under Barbers who used to be his subordinate at the Western Police District (WPD). Lim brought Barbers and other WPD cops to the NBI when he was appointed director of the premier law enforcement agency.

Barbers' former chief will soon become his subordinate. Such is one of life's paradoxes.

* * *

Barbers and Lim belong to that breed of former cops who called themselves "Manila's Finest." Manila policemen in their time were proud of the title.

Another former cop of the same caliber is retired Brig. Gen. Narciso M.Cabrera Jr., former superintendent of the Western Police District (WPD). (Note the rank and position; they were used before the Philippine National Police was formed).

Cabrera is one of the "outstanding Manilans" to be cited today, Tuesday, in celebration of the city's 432nd anniversary foundation.

* * *

When he was still Manila police captain in 1965, Cabrera conceptualized the police community relations office (PCRO), which was designed to foster better rapport between the police and the citizenry. The police community precinct is and adaptation of the PCRO.

Long before President Marcos thought of forming the barangay units to fight criminality, Cabrera had already conceptualized the police community relations district (PCRD) in Manila.

I covered the WPD when Cabrera was still its chief and I recall that there was not a single bank holdup in Manila and the drug problem was unheard of in the city during his watch.

Congratulations, Narcing for a long overdue but well-deserved award !

METROBRIEFS

Car thieves rounded up

PHILIPPINE National Police officials yesterday announced the arrest of seven suspected car thieves and the recovery of eight stolen vehicles in Bulacan and Pampanga. Most of the vehicles were found in a safe house raided by the Traffic Management Group last Friday, according to PNP chief Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. Among the vehicles recovered were a green Toyota Hi-Ace, a blue Kia Pride, a blue Toyota Corolla, a Mitsubishi L300, and a Mitsubishi Adventure. Police identified the suspects as Leonardo Gopez, 26, Levy Gopez, 25, Ariel Feliciano, 23, and Vicente Masilungan, 28. On Saturday, another police team was able to recover a stolen black Honda Civic, and arrest Jesus Tiglao, 25, Nestor Maday, 33, and Ryan Maniego, 20. ***Christian Esguerra***

Demolition reprieve

REP. Ricky Sandoval yesterday assured some 2,500 Malabon urban poor families that their houses would not be demolished until the local government has found a place for them to relocate. The families are in danger of losing their homes due to the national government's North Luzon Railways project. Although the demolition of the houses would push through on schedule, the Malabon-Navotas congressman said he would see to the welfare of affected residents and ensure their relocation. The North Luzon Railways Corp. and the National Housing Authority have announced that the Malabon railway lines would be cleared by end of July. ***Tina Santos***

Shootout suspect

ONE of six suspects in Saturday's shootout in Parañaque City has been identified. Police are now looking for a Julius Armenta, after witnesses identified him as one of the suspects who robbed passengers of a jeepney and later exchanged shots with policemen near Kabihasnan Street in Parañaque. PO1 Jonie Mamigo, who got hit in the shootout, also identified Armenta. Aside from Mamigo, traffic aide Marcelo Globio and passenger Bernie Galope were also hit in the exchange. ***Edson Tandoc Jr.***

Hit by stray bullet

MARLON Cadillo was killed on Sunday when a stray bullet hit him in the nose during a robbery in Manila. Police said another man, Jimmy Taritas, 30, was hit in the left shoulder and abdomen. Police said Taritas and Indian Baljit Singh, 30, were on a motorcycle and was passing through the Temporary Housing compound in Tondo, Manila when three men stopped them and announced a robbery. When Taritas tried to grab the gun of one of the robbers, it went off and hit Cadillo, 24, a resident of Tondo, who just happened to be standing nearby. Taritas was hit and taken to the Tondo General Hospital, police said. ***Luige del Puerto***

Killed by guard

SECURITY guard Fidel Martino shot and killed Marly Calviz, 27, of Tondo, Manila, yesterday morning for allegedly spreading rumors about him, police said. Martino, an employee of the SSS Security Services Inc., got upset when Calviz reported to the security firm's management that he was allegedly living in with a woman inside the company's Tondo premises, SPO2 Edison Bertoldo said. Fed up, Martino confronted Calviz and, at the height of their argument, drew his weapon and shot her, police said. The security guard is now at large. ***Luige del Puerto***

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(In exact order)

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5 6 1

MEGALOTTO 6/45
12 17 18 21 27 36

METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Abelardo S. Ulanday

Bilibid inmates yield 400 deadly weapons

OFFICIALS at the National Bilibid Prisons got a big surprise yesterday when inmates yielded nearly 400 deadly weapons.

The weapons include homemade guns, ammunition, ice picks and knives.

Supt. Francisco Abonales said yesterday's haul was the biggest in recent years.

In addition to the weapons, the inmates also surrendered cell phones and a few packs of shabu.

Although elated by the big haul, Abonales suspects other inmates could still be hiding more weapons.

Prisons officials had earlier asked the inmates to voluntarily surrender deadly weapons, cell phones and drugs. They were given until yesterday to do so.

Abonales said that the inmates had promised to help the new prisons director, Gen. Dionisio Santiago, and decided to surrender the hidden weapons.

He said inmates who would be caught still in possession of deadly weapons, cell phones, and drugs would face sanctions. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

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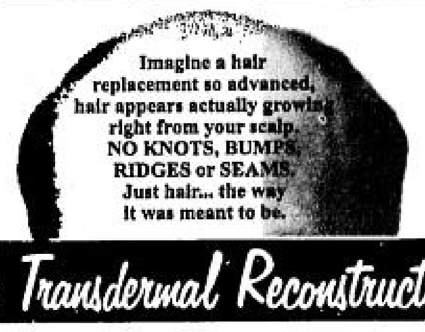

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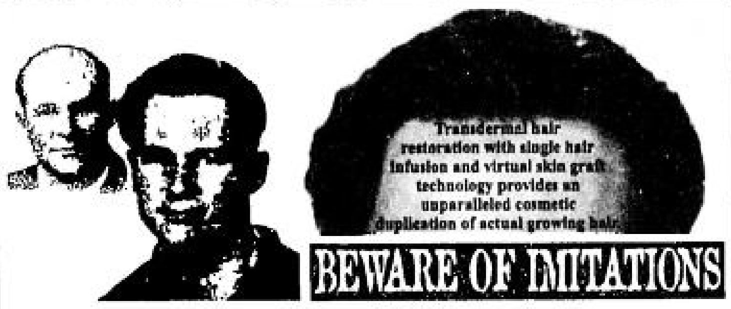

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Drug 'hot spots' named

Special focus to be given University Belt area

By Alcuin Papa and Margaux Ortiz

METRO Manila has 26 drug "hot spots" with Quezon City and Manila hosting the majority of these, the National Capital Region Police Office said yesterday.

NCRPO chief Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco defined a drug hot spot as an area with a high number of residents who use illegal drugs and where a high number of drug traffickers operate in.

He said 15 of these areas are in Quezon City, eight in Manila and one each in Parañaque City, Caloocan City and Mandaluyong City. *(See map)*

Velasco ordered the directors of the five police districts in Metro Manila to increase intelligence work and police visibility in these areas to thwart the drug trade.

He added that special focus would be given to the University Belt area in Manila.

"The President has declared an all-out war against illegal drugs and her marching orders is for the Metro cops to clear the university belt areas of drug dealers and pushers," Velasco said.

The NCRPO chief added that with the reopening of schools, drug syndicates and holdup gangs will "target students, schools, buses, jeepneys and even tricycles."

Recently, Central Police District director Chief Supt. Napoleon Castro, who has jurisdiction over Quezon City, admitted that there was no "drug-free" barangay in Quezon City.

Meanwhile, Manila Mayor Joselito Atienza Jr. said he was ready to fund the mandatory testing of lawmen in the city but insisted that it be "unannounced and on-the-spot."

The mayor added that the city government should be authorized to conduct the drug tests.

Earlier, Velasco appealed to the mayors of Metro Manila to fund the drug tests for lawmen in their respective towns and cities.

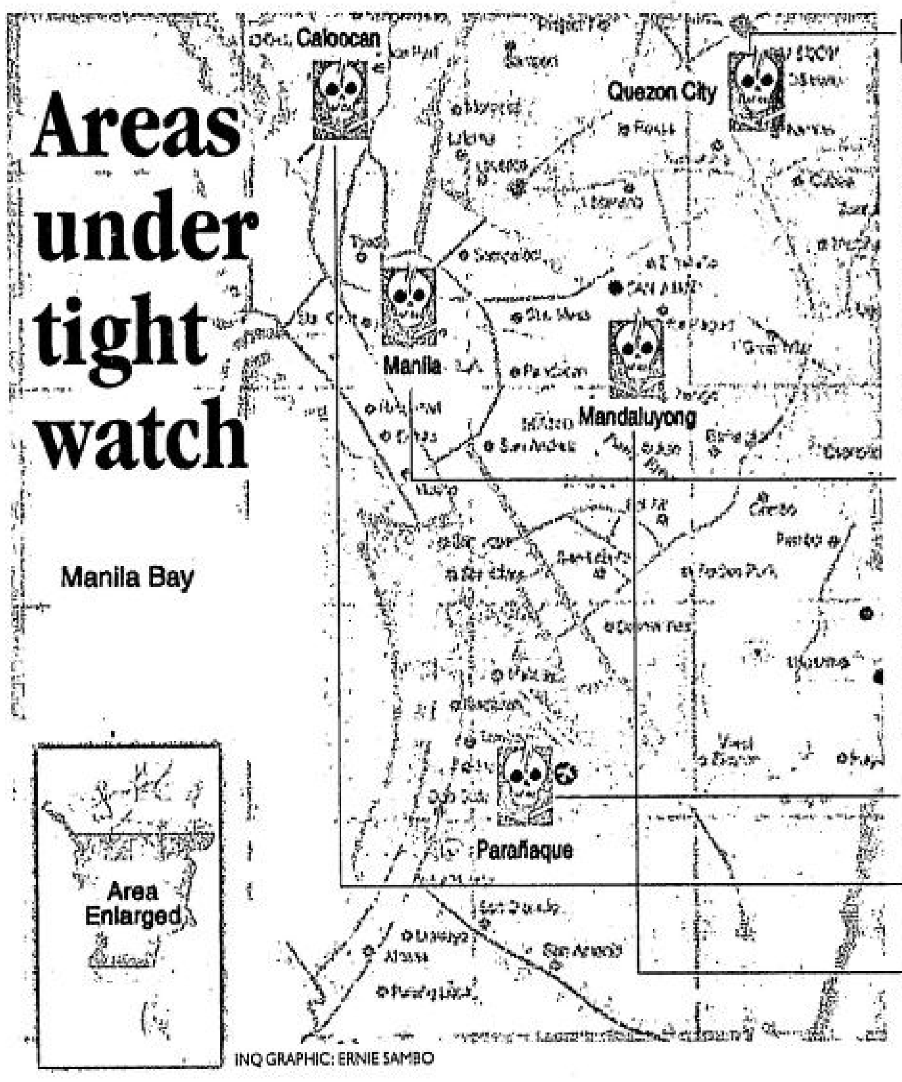
The NCRPO chief noted that some P5.1 million would be needed to perform random drug tests on the 17,000 policemen in the National Capital Region.

"We will mobilize every resource we have to help the police in the campaign against drugs," Atienza told the INQUIRER but insisted on surprise testing.

"If they schedule the tests, there's a big chance that they will not be able to apprehend anyone," he said.

He explained that scheduled tests would allow drug users to prepare for testing by not using drugs a few days before.

Velasco said this could affect the result of the tests and undermine the objectives of the campaign.



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Manila
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Escape turns tragic

By Edson Tandoc Jr.

HE WANTED to save his cell phone from a robber but ended up losing his girlfriend.

Now, Melvin Ceballos, 25, feels like he has lost everything.

The police said Ceballos and his live-in partner, Aileen Meleño, both of Lotus Street, T. S. Cruz Subdivision, Las Piñas City, took a Muntinlupa City bound jeepney before dawn Monday on their way home.

When the jeepney reached the Lozada Market at the corner of Alabang-Zapote Road and Marcos Alvarez Avenue, the couple and a male passenger sitting beside the driver were the only ones left in the vehicle.

Suddenly, the male passenger got off, transferred to the back of the jeepney, and announced a holdup as the jeepney sped off.

Police said the couple got nervous and jumped off the moving vehicle.

Ceballos went first pulling on the arm of Meleño who lost her balance and fell chest first on the pavement.

She was rushed to the Las Piñas City Medical Center where she died later.

Police said Ceballos was afraid that the robber would take his Nokia 3210 cell phone.

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

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WHAT'S INSIDE

- Eagle gives Kaye maiden win /A21

- Change is in the air as Wimbledon opens /A22

- Ronaldo hands Real record 29th title /A22

Snubbed PSC forms own task force

By Marc Anthony Reyes

TO EACH his own.

That is how things are between the Philippine Sports Commission and the Philippine Olympic Committee as they now pursue separate programs leading to the Vietnam Southeast Asian Games this December.

Snubbed by the POC during its monthly SEAG deliberations, the PSC has decided to create its own Task Force which will deal directly with the national sports associations regarding the athletes' eligibility, training requirement and equipment.

PSC chair Eric Buhain yesterday said his Task Force, created only last week, will go straight to the NSAs because the POC has been keeping the PSC in the dark regarding the SEAG build-up.

"We are running out of time, so I guess we should go directly to the NSAs. After all, they are the ones who will see action in Vietnam," Buhain told the INQUIRER.

But Steve Hontiveros, the POC vice president and head of the POC screening committee for the SEAG, denied leaving the PSC "in the dark" during their monthly deliberations, adding the creation of a separate Task Force "won't look nice."

"From the start, they (the PSC) have always been included in the meeting. I have even talked with (PSC official) Tats Suzara last week. I was even planning to meet the chairman," Hontiveros said.

"As much as possible, I would like us to work hand in hand but I could only do so much," he added.

Buhain said there was one POC deliberation where PSC officials were invited. The meeting was eventually cancelled only to be convened again later in the day without the PSC representatives, he added.

BUHAIN: POC has kept the PSC in the dark. BETOY JOHNSON

HONTIVEROS: PSC move won't look nice. PDI PHOTO

"That was a clear message that they don't want us there," Buhain said.

The PSC hasn't been invited in succeeding deliberations after that.

The Task Force will be headed by Sean Solis, who will be assisted by PSC executive director Ed Mateo, Tats Suzara, Ariel Paredes and Benjie McMurray.

PSC-POC relations have been on the rocks since early last year as they bickered over the number of SEAG athletes to be sent, the criteria to be used, and the issue over marketing and sponsors of the RP campaign.

Buhain stressed last week that the PSC has approved only 279 athletes for the Vietnam SEAG. The POC, on the other hand, claimed that more than 400 athletes have already met the SEAG criteria.

The PSC head said the POC has been using four criteria for the SEAG but the PSC is sticking with the original standard of a silver medal in the 2001 SEAG or the bronze in the 2002 Asian Games.

"I want to be able to justify the government spending on the SEA Games because I will be the one who is answerable to Congress and the Senate," Buhain added.

Buhain said the POC's other criteria, which are not acceptable to the PSC, are performances equaling bronze in the 2001 SEAG or fourth to fifth places in the 2002 Asiad, "justifiable" performances by teams in subjective sports and the potential to win by an athlete without sufficient credentials.

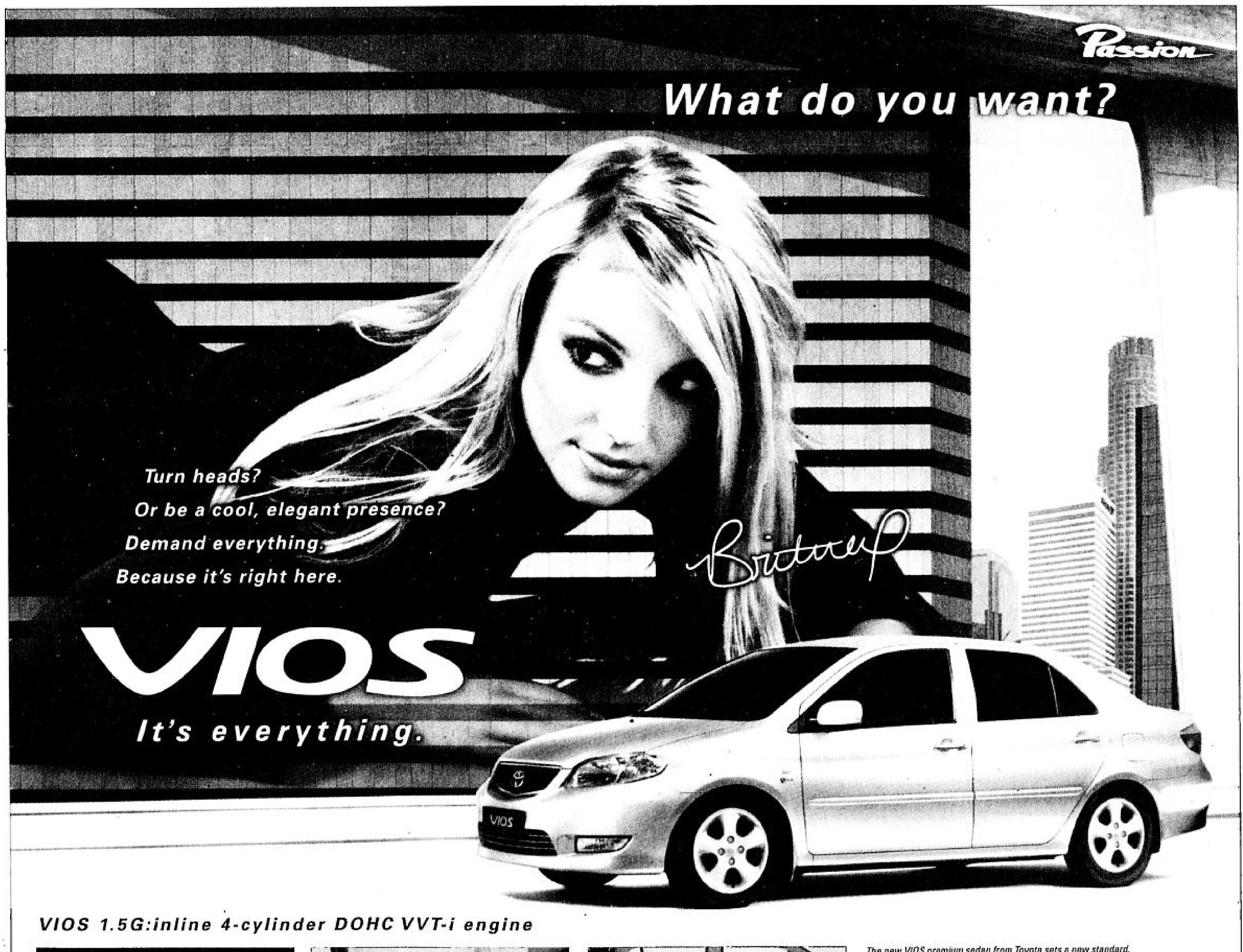
Hontiveros said, however, that aside from the silver-in-SEAG, bronze-in-Asiad criteria, the POC wants to add only those athletes in subjective sports who have the talent and ability to win.

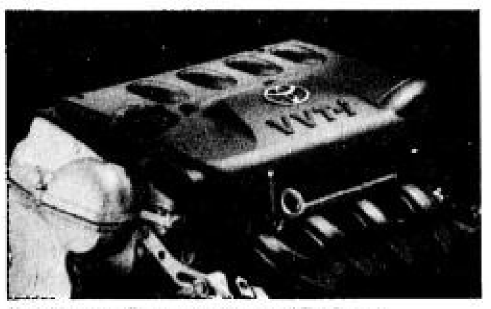
"We know better than to send junketeers in Vietnam. We assure everybody that the people we will send will fight for the country," said Hontiveros.

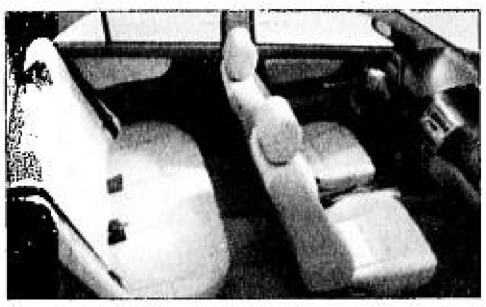
The other members of the POC Task Force are Julian Camacho of wushu, Rey Jaylo of judo, Mario Tanchangco of sepak takraw, Vic Valbuena of table tennis and Nestor Ilagan.

The POC decided late last year to break its long-time partnership with the PSC in preparing RP teams for major international events. Since the 1993 Singapore SEAG, all RP contingents have been selected and approved by the joint SEAG Task Force.

While the POC picks the RP delegation to the SEAG, the Asian Games and the Olympics as the local arm of the IOC, funding for all those competitions comes from the PSC.







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Sly ads force PBA to pack up from 2 venues

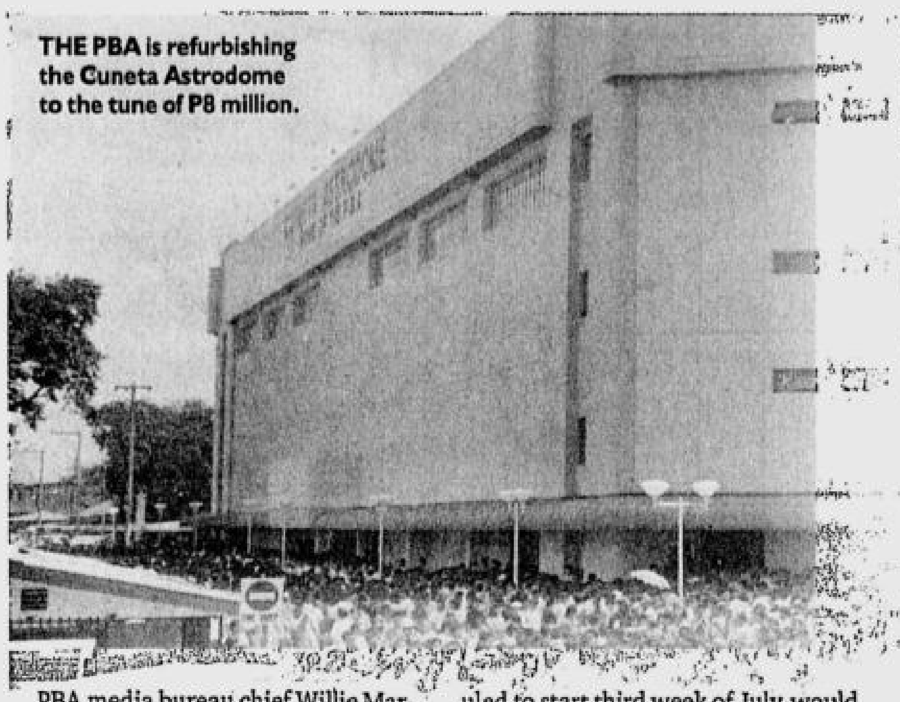
By June Navarro

UNANSWERED pleas over anomalous backdoor advertising has led Philippine Basketball Association to desert its current game venues, the Araneta Coliseum and the Philsports Arena, and return to an old home—the Cuneta Astrodome.

The PBA yesterday announced it has agreed to pour in millions of pesos to help refurbish the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay after advertising problems continued to hound the league's venue transactions with the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City and Philsports Arena in Pasig.

The Cuneta Astrodome used to be the permanent dwelling of the PBA in the mid '90s until maintenance problems got in the way beginning in 1997, thereby forcing the league to play at Araneta and Philsports in transient capacity.

The PBA is throwing a total of P8 million to restore the Astrodome inside-out and make it a temporary residence until the state-of-the-art coliseum being mulled by league bigwigs becomes a reality.



THE PBA is refurbishing the Cuneta Astrodome to the tune of P8 million.

PBA media bureau chief Willie Marcial said the league had already released P4 million as down payment for the beautification program of the Cuneta Astrodome and would shell out the entire amount right after completion.

Marcial said the refurbishing, scheduled to start third week of July, would involve the sprucing up and repainting of the court flooring, seats, ceiling, dugouts, press room and other offices within the facility.

A newly repainted Astrodome facade is expected while the airconditioning system inside the venue, including the dugouts and the press room, will also be repaired to the satisfaction of the fans and the stakeholders, Marcial added.

The PBA decided to return to the Astrodome after its current venues—Araneta and Philsports—took the league's appeal to remove all backdoor advertising sitting down.

On both venues, sponsors, whose brandings were splashed on the court flooring and walls, were taken in without notifying and consulting PBA officials.

"As a result, our television partner (NBN-4) is having a difficult time getting its own sponsors since these venue sponsors get to ride on the back of the PBA for free," a PBA insider said.

The PBA has also started entertaining bidders for the construction of a new venue which, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said, would be the league's permanent home.

Last week, a US-based conglomerate offered to shell out $40 million to build the facility, which will be constructed at the reclamation area in Pasay City.

The million-dollar venue will form part of the planned Pagcor City, ballyhooed as the local version of Las Vegas, in the same area.

Paragua posts 3rd win as RP bets shine

By Roy Luarca

GM-CANDIDATE Mark Paragua streaked to his third straight win in the Asian Zonals yesterday as Filipino bets continued their strong showing in the Asian Zonals 3.2-A championship in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Other Filipinos who emerged victorious in the third round were Grandmaster Joey Antonio and NM Ronald Dableo, the reigning Philippine Open titlist.

The 19-year-old Paragua whipped Vietnam's Nguyen Van Huy, duplicating his conquest of Malaysian Fide master Jing Wong in Round Two on Sunday and Singaporean Weiming Go in Round One of the 38-man, nine-round Swiss System tournament.

"Just pray for me and I'll do my best," Paragua wrote in a text to NM Marlon Bernardino.

MAKING WAVES: GM candidate Mark Paragua (left) is showing up veteran GMs Eugene Torre (middle) and Joey Antonio with three straight wins.

JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Antonio, seeded third with his Elo of 2521, beat Vietnamese Fide Master Dinh Duc Trong to climb to 2.5 points in the company of Dableo.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre, ranked fourth with an Elo of 2520, was held to a draw by Indonesian FM Sadikim Irwanto. Torre has 2 points.

The lone Filipino casualty yesterday was GM Bong Villamayor, who yielded to 33rd-ranked Le Quang Li. Villamayor, co-champion of the 2000 Asian Zonals, remained at 1.5 points.

WIM Arianne Caoili was still battling Vietnamese Vang Thi Tho Hang at presstime. Caoili won her second round match as she bounced back from her opening-round loss to Hoang Thi Ut.

Where would Alaska be without Arigo?

THE SCORING King title belongs to the injured Kenneth Duremdes. But, of late, Alaska's John Arigo has been quietly asserting his value in the PBA All-Filipino semifinals.

While the playoffs' scoring sprees have been the domain of Duremdes, premier Sta. Lucia pointmaker who scored back-to-back 40-points games in the quarterfinals, Arigo has started to make people notice with back-to-back 30-point games in the semifinals.

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USA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSH
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REUTERS

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Forward Taguig coach Danny Gavieres recruited Mendoza after learning that his former ward with the Tamaraws has reverted to amateur. *Roy Luarca*

Sly ads force PBA to pack up from 2 venues

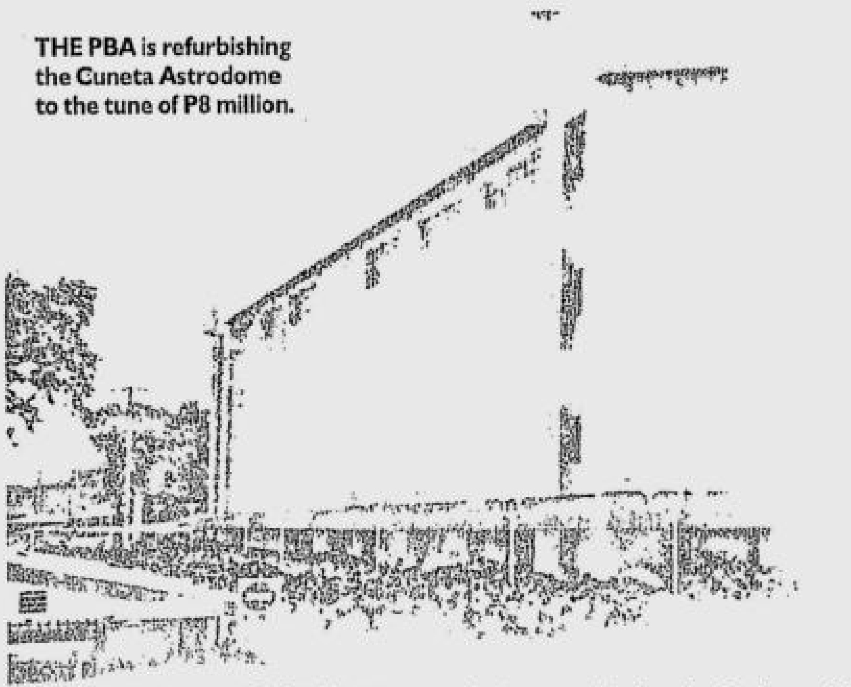
By June Navarro

UNANSWERED pleas over anomalous backdoor advertising has led Philippine Basketball Association to desert its current game venues, the Araneta Coliseum and the Philsports Arena, and return to an old home—the Cuneta Astrodome.

The PBA yesterday announced it has agreed to pour in millions of pesos to help refurbish the Cuneta Astrodome in Pasay after advertising problems continued to hound the league's venue transactions with the Araneta Coliseum in Quezon City and Philsports Arena in Pasig.

The Cuneta Astrodome used to be the permanent dwelling of the PBA in the mid '90s until maintenance problems got in the way beginning in 1997, thereby forcing the league to play at Araneta and Philsports in transient capacity.

The PBA is throwing a total of P8 million to restore the Astrodome inside-out and make it a temporary residence until the state-of-the-art coliseum being mulled by league bigwigs becomes a reality.



THE PBA is refurbishing the Cuneta Astrodome to the tune of P8 million.

PBA media bureau chief Willie Marcial said the league had already released P4 million as down payment for the beautification program of the Cuneta Astrodome and would shell out the entire amount right after completion.

Marcial said the refurbishing, scheduled to start third week of July, would involve the sprucing up and repainting of the court flooring, seats, ceiling, dugouts, press room and other offices within the facility.

A newly repainted Astrodome facade is expected while the airconditioning system inside the venue, including the dugouts and the press room, will also be repaired to the satisfaction of the fans and the stakeholders, Marcial added.

The PBA decided to return to the Astrodome after its current venues—Araneta and Philsports—took the league's appeal to remove all backdoor advertising sitting down.

On both venues, sponsors, whose brandings were splashed on the court flooring and walls, were taken in without notifying and consulting PBA officials.

"As a result, our television partner (NBN-4) is having a difficult time getting its own sponsors since these venue sponsors get to ride on the back of the PBA for free," a PBA insider said.

The PBA has also started entertaining bidders for the construction of a new venue which, PBA Commissioner Noli Eala said, would be the league's permanent home.

Last week, a US-based conglomerate offered to shell out $40 million to build the facility, which will be constructed at the reclamation area in Pasay City.

The million-dollar venue will form part of the planned Pagcor City, ballyhooed as the local version of Las Vegas, in the same area.

Paragua posts 3rd win as RP bets shine

By Roy Luarca

GM-CANDIDATE Mark Paragua streaked to his third straight win in the Asian Zonals yesterday as Filipino bets continued their strong showing in the Asian Zonals 3.2-A championship in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Other Filipinos who emerged victorious in the third round were Grandmaster Joey Antonio and NM Ronald Dableo, the reigning Philippine Open titlist.

The 19-year-old Paragua whipped Vietnam's Nguyen Van Huy, duplicating his conquest of Malaysian Fide master Jing Wong in Round Two on Sunday and Singaporean Weiming Go in Round One of the 38-man, nine-round Swiss System tournament.

"Just pray for me and I'll do my best," Paragua wrote in a text to NM Marlon Bernardino.

MAKING WAVES: GM candidate Mark Paragua (left) is showing up veteran GMs Eugene Torre (middle) and Joey Antonio with three straight wins.

Antonio, seeded third with his Elo of 2521, beat Vietnamese Fide Master Dinh Duc Trong to climb to 2.5 points in the company of Dableo.

Grandmaster Eugene Torre, ranked fourth with an Elo of 2520, was held to a draw by Indonesian FM Sadikim Irwanto. Torre has 2 points.

The lone Filipino casualty yesterday was GM Bong Villamayor, who yielded to 33rd-ranked Le Quang Li. Villamayor, co-champion of the 2000 Asian Zonals, remained at 1.5 points.

WIM Arianne Caoili was still battling Vietnamese Vang Thi Tho Hang at presstime. Caoili won her second round match as she bounced back from her opening-round loss to Hoang Thi Ut.

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Roy Luarca

Eagle gives Kaye maiden win

HARRISON, New York—Jonathan Kaye won the waterlogged Buick Classic for his first PGA Tour title, holing a 12-foot eagle putt from just off the back of the 18th green on the first hole of a playoff with John Rollins.

Kaye, who lost a playoff to Chris Riley last year in the Reno-Tahoe Open, made a 4-foot birdie putt in regulation on the par-5 closing hole to match Rollins at 13-under 271 on the saturated Westchester Country Club course.

"It's nice to finally come out on top," Kaye said.

He played 30 holes Sunday, completing the rain-delayed third round with a 3-under 68 and matching Rollins—who missed a 12-foot birdie putt in the playoff before Kaye's winning eagle—with a 67 in the final round.

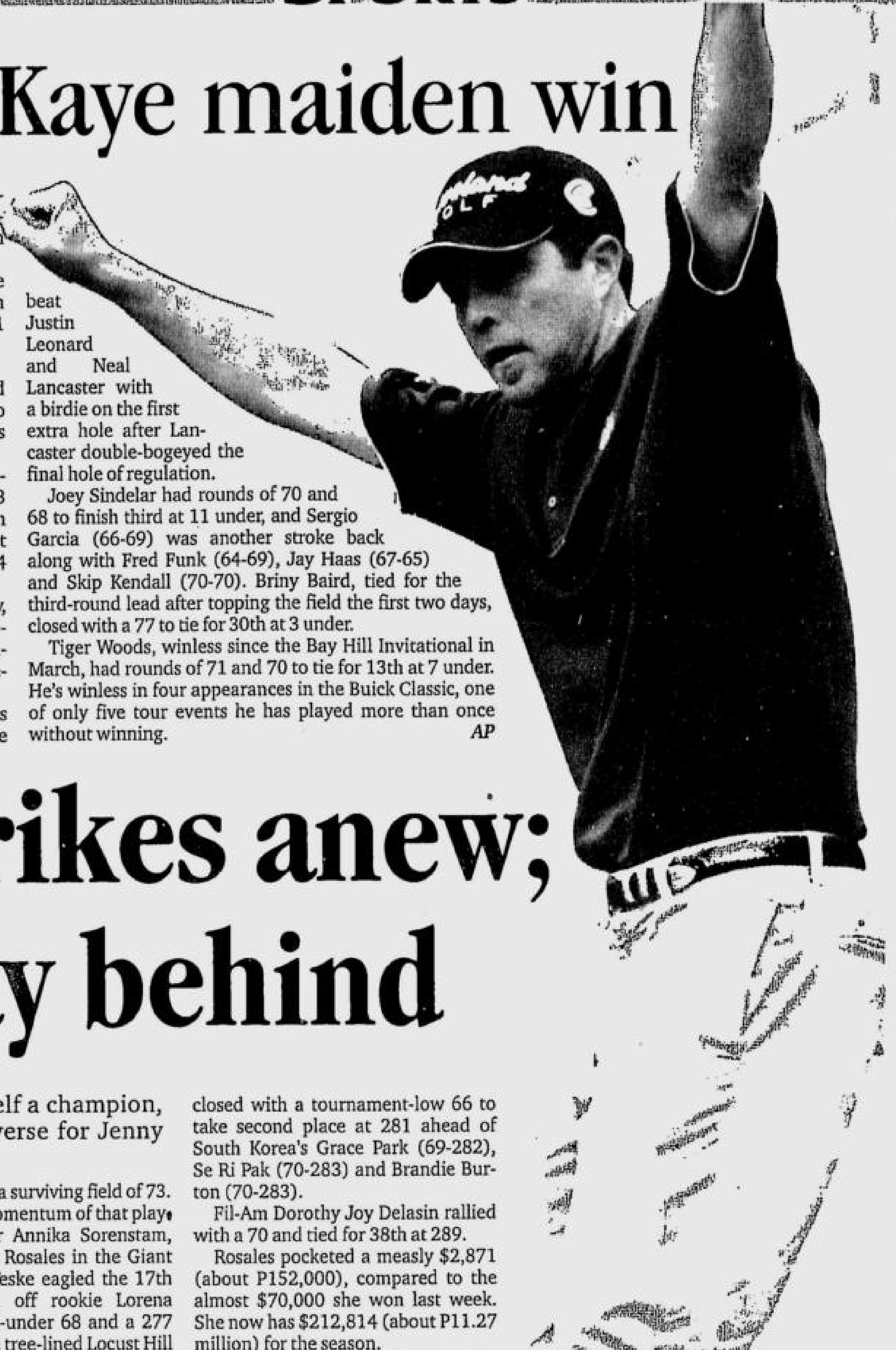
After bogeying his final hole Saturday to drop to 6 under, Kaye played the final 11 holes of the third round in 3 under and reached 12 under in the fourth round with birdies on Nos. 4, 5 and 7. He bogeyed the par-5 ninth, but got back to 12 under with a 6-foot birdie putt on No. 14 and tied Rollins with the 4-footer on No. 18.

Kaye earned $900,000 for his breakthrough victory, two years after the 32-year-old former University of Colorado player was suspended by the tour for a confrontation with a tournament security guard during the Michelob Championship.

Rollins shot 67s in the final three rounds to reach his second career playoff. Last year in the Canadian Open, he beat Justin Leonard and Neal Lancaster with a birdie on the first extra hole after Lancaster double-bogeyed the final hole of regulation.

Joey Sindelar had rounds of 70 and 68 to finish third at 11 under, and Sergio Garcia (66-69) was another stroke back along with Fred Funk (64-69), Jay Haas (67-65) and Skip Kendall (70-70). Briny Baird, tied for the third-round lead after topping the field the first two days, closed with a 77 to tie for 30th at 3 under.

Tiger Woods, winless since the Bay Hill Invitational in March, had rounds of 71 and 70 to tie for 13th at 7 under. He's winless in four appearances in the Buick Classic, one of only five tour events he has played more than once without winning. *AP*



JOHN Kaye celebrates after holing the eagle on the first extra hole. REUTERS

Teske strikes anew; Jenny way behind

A WEEK after almost crowning herself a champion, the wheel of fortune turned in reverse for Jenny Rosales.

As Rachel Teske, the Australian who beat Rosales and two others in a playoff last week, celebrated a second straight victory in the LPGA Tour by ruling the Wegmans Rochester, the Philippine star slumped to her worst score this season of six-over-par 78 and finished way below the standings.

Rosales took a double par on the par-3 seventh in a disastrous three-hole stretch where she went five over and never recovered, wounding up in a tie for 62nd in a surviving field of 73.

Riding the momentum of that playoff victory over Annika Sorenstam, Lorie Kane and Rosales in the Giant Eagle Classic, Teske eagled the 17th hole and held off rookie Lorena Ochoa with a 4-under 68 and a 277 aggregate at the tree-lined Locust Hill course.

It was Teske's eighth victory in seven years on the US tour.

The 21-year-old Ochoa of Mexico closed with a tournament-low 66 to take second place at 281 ahead of South Korea's Grace Park (69-282), Se Ri Pak (70-283) and Brandie Burton (70-283).

Fil-Am Dorothy Joy Delasin rallied with a 70 and tied for 38th at 289.

Rosales pocketed a measly $2,871 (about P152,000), compared to the almost $70,000 she won last week. She now has $212,814 (about P11.27 million) for the season.

Rosales plays next in the Shoprite LPGA Classic in New Jersey before flying to Portland, Oregon for the US Women's Open. *Jong Arcano*

Lewis ponders bloody brawl

LEWIS: Aging champ

LOS ANGELES—His night in the ring was long since over, and Lennox Lewis and his people were still working hard. Vitali Klitschko was tough enough, but now there was some serious explaining to do.

Lewis was still the heavyweight champion, but that and another $10 million or so in his bank account were the only things he could feel good about Saturday night.

No matter how hard the Lewis camp tried to spin it, a couple of truths were evident after the bloody brawl that ended prematurely at the Staples Center.

One, Lewis was lucky to keep his heavyweight title against a surprisingly effective and tough Klitschko.

Two, perhaps at the age of 37 Lewis should take notice of his increasingly wobbly legs and weak chin and finally decide it might be a good time to hang up the gloves.

"There isn't anything else for me to prove," Lewis said. "I'm going to go back, talk to my colleagues, look at the tape and decide from there."

What he sees on the tape may frighten him.

Klitschko, who many believed wasn't even the best fighter in his family, rocked Lewis early and often before the ring doctor finally stopped the fight after six rounds because of bad cuts to Klitschko's left eye. *AP*

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This Piquet also sits on front row

LONDON—Nelson Piquet junior has his future mapped out in his mind already, accelerating from British Formula Three to a Formula One test and full race drive by 2005.

The 17-year-old Brazilian, son of the three-time Formula One champion and namesake, will have no problems when the time comes next month to show off his car control to an Oxford examiner.

His planned career path will be a lot tougher, even if he is already a race winner in Formula Three whose pedigree has been noted.

"Nelson Piquet looks very, very talented," says Frank Williams, whose Formula One team won the world championship with Piquet senior in 1987.

"But he's 17 and it's a long while before he'll be winning grands prix, only on the age basis. His results say he is very impressive." *Reuters*

Victorious Solberg gunning for world title

LIMASSOL, Cyprus—Norway's Petter Solberg of the Subaru Impreza team signaled his world championship ambitions after winning the seventh leg of the 14-race season at the Rally of Cyprus here Sunday.

Solberg finished ahead of Finland's Harri Rovanpera in a Peugeot 206 and France's Sebastian Loeb in a Citroen Xsara as the championship reached the halfway stage.

Although Britain's Richard Burns, driving a Peugeot 206, retained the overall World Championship lead, Solberg's victory means that no less than five different drivers from four stables have been involved in victory in the seven races held so far this season.

And the Norwegian said he is raring to go when the next race, in Germany at the end of July, comes round.

"This victory came just at the right time for me," said Solberg, whose Subaru team, along with Citroen, were the only outfits who managed to get all three cars to the finish after a drama-filled weekend. *AFP*

REUTERS

JAPAN'S Naohiro Takahara (right) fights for the ball with Colombia's Victor Aristizabal in the game won by the South Americans, 1-0.

Colombia, France, Cameroon through

SAINT-ETIENNE, France—France, Colombia and Cameroon are in the semifinals of the Confederations Cup. Brazil or Turkey will complete the foursome.

While France and Cameroon were sure of advancing even before their final group matches, Colombia needed a victory against Japan in Saint-Etienne on Sunday and got it on a 68th-minute goal by Giovanni Hernandez, who took advantage of a defensive blunder by Japan to shoot the South American champion into the last four.

France, the defending champion, thrashed hapless New Zealand 5-0 in Saint-Denis to make sure of winning Group A ahead of Colombia. *AP*

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Nikoy Lining	2	0
Snooky Villanueva	1	1
Bebeng Gallego	1	1
Dennis Orcullo	0	1
Dodong Andam	0	1
Lee Vann Corteza	0	1
Marlon Manalo	0	1

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Change is in the air as Wimbledon opens

Sampras out; Lleyton, Serena favored again

WIMBLEDON, England—Pete Sampras is out. So is the curtsy.

The men are considering setting up alternative tournaments if the Grand Slams don't fork over more money. The women are launching a new marketing campaign.

Change is in the air at tennis' most tradition-laden event.

There is one constant, though, as Wimbledon opens Monday: Serena and Venus Williams are counting on going far this fortnight.

"You've got to give the Williams sisters credit for what they've done for the women's game," tournament referee Alan Mills said. "They've brought it to new heights."

Serena Williams can be forgiven if she's already looking ahead to the semifinals at the grasscourt major. That's when she could face Justine Henin-Hardenne, the Belgian who ended Williams' 33-match Grand Slam winning streak at the French Open.

That loss was disconcerting to Williams for several reasons.

It ended her bid for a calendar-year Slam. Her play was poor for stretches. The crowd cheered when she faulted. And she felt Henin-Hardenne breached good sportsmanship by not acknowledging a timeout called as Williams missed a serve.

She wiped away tears at the postmatch news conference in Paris and vowed to "be a little stronger next time." Well, next time against the Belgian could arrive July 3.

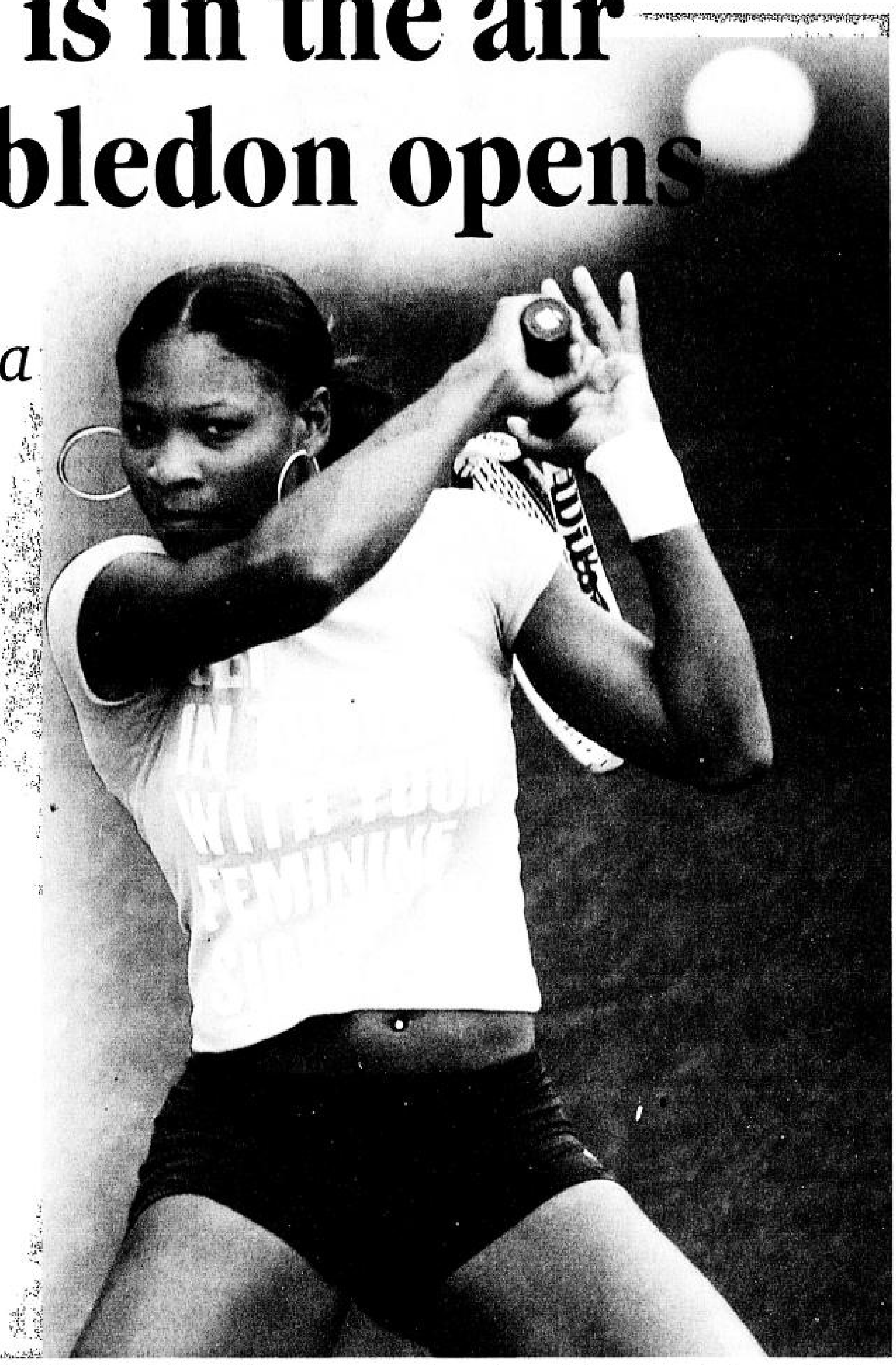
"Obviously it hurt, and I've been very tough on myself since that defeat," the top-ranked Williams said.

She begins defending her Wimbledon title Tuesday against Jill Craybas, an American ranked 66th. In a preserved tradition, the honor of opening Centre Court goes to the reigning men's champion: Lleyton Hewitt will face qualifier Ivo Karlovic on Monday. Andy Roddick–whose booming serve and new coach (Brad Gilbert) helped win his first grasscourt title at Queen's Club–Kim Clijsters, Lindsay Davenport and Chanda Rubin also play Monday.

Venus Williams, the 2000-01 champion, plays Slovakian qualifier Stanislava Hrozenska on Court 2, the so-called "Graveyard of Champions" and site of Sampras' second-round loss to George Bastl last year.

For the first time since 1988, Wimbledon will go on without Sampras, a seven-time champion who hasn't played since beating Andre Agassi for the US Open title.

Sampras' withdrawal was one of several, including fellow past champion Goran Ivanisevic, Marat Safin, Monica Seles and Amelie Mauresmo. AP



DEFENDING champion Serena Williams, warming up on the practice courts at Wimbledon, London, starts her title defense against 66th-ranked American Jill Craybas on Tuesday. REUTERS

Men's boycott looms in 2004

LONDON—Wimbledon starts Monday with the threat of a boycott hanging over next year's Grand Slam tennis showpiece as men players demand more money.

The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP), the governing body of the men's game, wants up to 30 percent of revenue from the four major tournaments to help fund the tour.

They have warned that rival tournaments could be organized to clash with Wimbledon and other Grand Slam events.

Around 100 players met at the All England Club on Saturday to hear a proposal to stage rival tournaments during the Australian, French and US Opens, and Wimbledon in 2004.

"We have players who want to create alternative events to run against the Grand Slams," ATP chief executive officer Mark Miles said.

Todd Martin, president of the ATP's player council, admitted Wimbledon officials have yet to be convinced.

Total prize money for Wimbledon this year is 9,373,990 pounds ($15.5 million) of which 4,666,370 pounds ($7.76 million) goes to the men's singles and doubles events.

Last year's Wimbledon surplus of 25.6 million pounds ($42.5 million) was handed over to the Lawn Tennis Association to invest in British tennis. *AFP*

Ronaldo hands Real record 29th title

MADRID—Ronaldo promised Real Madrid fans a special treat before Sunday's crucial game against Athletic Bilbao and the Brazilian striker remained true to his word as he scored two goals in their 3-1 win over the Basques to give Real a record 29th title.

After a week in which the imminent arrival of England forward David Beckham from Manchester United has overshadowed the team's league decider, Real got back to business to end Real Sociedad's league ambitions.

Sociedad started the day two points in arrears of their rivals from the Spanish capital but, despite a 3-0 win over Atletico Madrid, they were frustrated in their bid to lift their first title in 21 years thanks to Ronaldo and the rest of Real Madrid's star-studded side.

The Brazilian World Cup winner took the field with a complete skinhead cut apart from a tuft at the front - a style he sported in the closing stages of the World Cup finals last year as he led Brazil to victory - but soon showed that his new hairdo had not gone to his head.

He opened the scoring after just nine minutes finishing off a move which started with Luis Figo darting down the left wing.

The Portuguese winger's pass found Roberto Carlos, who produced a defense-splitting pass from the touchline, which left Ronaldo with the relatively simple task of slotting the ball home from close-range.

Real had two other chances, from Raul and Ronaldo, with Athletic goalkeeper Daniel Aranzubia pulling off brave saves before former Spanish international Bitor Alkiza levelled the scores after 36 minutes with his first goal of the season.

The game ended as a contest when Zinedine Zidane caught the Athletic defence napping just after the hour and Ronaldo ran through their poorly executed offside trap to score his 23rd league goal of the season.

RONALDO (right) scores against Athletic de Bilbao player Carlos Gurpegui. AP

Ronaldo's stellar season silenced his many critics who voiced their concerns when he arrived last August about whether he would stand up to the week-in week-out pressure and punishment of the Spanish first division.

He had the second highest tally of goals in the Spanish first division behind the 29 notched up by Deportivo's dynamic Dutch striker Roy Makaay.

In Madrid, Spain, waving flags and setting off fireworks, hundreds of thousands of ecstatic Real Madrid fans flooded toward the capital city's Cibeles square to celebrate their team's record 29th league title, but traditionally strident celebrations were thwarted by a strict police presence.

Policed by more than a thousand police late Sunday, about 200,000 fans swayed and jumped in exuberance, waiting for the arrival of the star-studded team at the fountain monument of the ancient mother earth goddess Cybele. The monument is the traditional gathering ground for celebrations of Real Madrid's successes.

This year, the fountain, which has been damaged in previous celebrations, was shielded from the crowds — and players — by a 1.5-meter (5-foot) glass wall and scores of police. *AFP, AP*

SPORTSWATCH

Gran Copa on today

GOLDEN Ballet and Lyonnais head the Division I (Philracom Cup) field when the 24th Gran Copa de Manila Stakes racing festival reels off today at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. The Gran Copa is an annual racing tradition that has long been a part of the rich history of the Manila Jockey Club, Inc. and its former host city, Manila, which is celebrating its 432nd founding anniversary today. A total of 13 races are lined up for today's card. Golden Ballet and Lyonnais will be challenged in the 1,900-meter race by Hazmoore, Kitty Hawk, Perfect Storm and Serena. Meanwhile, imports Absolute Charmer Sunny Contender, Audrey's Savings and Buena Sera will compete in Division II (Genuino Cup), also over 1,900-meters. Manila Mayor Lito Atienza, Carmona Mayor Roy Loyola, Philracom chair Jimmy Dilag and SLLP head Alfonso Reyno Jr. will grace the affair.

Bombers triumph

KISHORE Mirpuri sparkled as the Bombay Bombers whipped the Knights to win the 2003 Filipino-Indian Basketball League (FIBL) crown last Sunday at the Makati Coliseum. Mirpuri, the league MVP, pumped in 37 points to pace the Bombay which also got support from Sanju Jiandani (21 points) and Ramesh Mirchandani (10 points). "We had one of the best and most exciting seasons this year in the FIBL history," said commissioner Dilip K. Budhrani, who also thanked sponsors, David Salon, Esquire International Credit Resources Inc., Timex, Jockey, Speedo, Shroff Travel, Hello Baby Garments, Canadian Bedsheets, Molten, Filipino-Indian Chamber of Commerce, Fila, Park Trade, Glostar Corp., Kindercare, Masflex Houseware and Orogem Jewellers.

Junior netfest set

THE 2003 Olivarez Junior Tennis Championships get going at the Olivarez College Sports Center indoor courts in Parañaque City on June 28-29, July 5-6-12 and 13. Philta chair Dr. Pablo Olivarez said that the Group 3 event is sanctioned by Philta and supported by Wilson balls and the Olivarez Group of Companies. The netfest will feature the boys' and girls 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and the unisex 10-under divisions. Olivarez's grandson Pablo together with teammate Russel Arcilla Jr. and Ralph Barte will represent the country in the World Youth team championships in the Czech Republic this August.

Sports officials here

TOP Malaysian sports officials arrived here Sunday to hold talks with their Filipino counterparts. Deputy Sports Commissioner of Malaysia, Wan Yacob Hassan, Principal Assistant Sports Commissioner I Raja Abdul Kadir Raja Omar, Commissioner II Asmadi Mohammad, Commissioner IV Jagdeep Kaur and Commissioner V Oliver Lipa Anak Liban are set to meet Philippine Sports Commission officials, led by chair Eric Buhain. They were met by Philsports administrator Ramon Suzara and Minister Counselor Mahinder Singh of the Malaysian Embassy. Buhain invited the Malaysians to establish linkages and explore possible assistance and partnership that may benefit local sports.

All set for Ucap tilt

BIGTIME cockers are joining today's "Ucap Sentenciador 4-Cock Derby" at Mandaluyong Coliseum. Sponsors of the event aimed to support Ucap referee Berong Javellana are Sagupaan Hammer, Sagupaan Mite Free, Sagupaan B-50 Forten and Lakpue Drugs' Washout Shampoo. Also backing the meet is sportsman and current Ucap president Raymond Velayo. Among the participants are Pol Estrellado, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, 2003 Ucap Cocker of the Year Sonny Ligon, lawyer Ram Lopez, Mauro Prieto and former ambassador Danding Cojuangco. For more details, please contact 531-4003, 531-4005, 534-4110 and 535-2341.

5-cock meet slated

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit's "Fantastic and Spencer 5-Cock One Day Derby" on Thursday (June 26), will stake a cash prize of P500,000. Former Mayor Vic Amante, William Co and Jaime Venzon are the hosts. Submission of entries is on Thursday, from 6 a.m. to 12 noon. Interested parties may call 833-2275 and 833-1638. Meanwhile, participants to the "Hatta-Hattah 5-Cock Derby" slated on June 28, July 1, 3 and 5 are advised to make reservations on July 3. Host Rolly Ligon said the guaranteed prize at stake is P2.2 million while entry fee is P8,800.

Luzon outpedals 'em

TOUR Pilipinas veteran Bernard Luzon displayed awesome form in topping the Tour of Tagaytay recently. Luzon clocked 4:51:28.13 in the 200-km race, coming in first in a three-man group that included Pagcor Sports' Rhyan Tanguiling and Arnel Espino. The race was accredited by the Tour Pilipinas Inc, meaning riders earned circuit points for next year's major summer road race. Tagaytay mayor Francis Tolentino flagged off the riders in the race managed by the Philippine National Cycling Association and supported by the city of Tagaytay and Air21. Luzon won P15,000, Tanguilig P10,000 and Espino P5,000.

Chessfest Saturday

THE FOURTH leg of the 2003 Philippine Executive Active Chess Express (Peace) 2003 unfolds at 1 p.m. on June 28 at the Land Bank Plaza in Malate, Manila. The monthly event is being organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia (Acca) with the support of Belgosa Media Systems and Land Bank. Executives and professionals who wish to join the event may contact the Acca at tel. no. 892-8759 for other details. Tyrone Guya of Nippon Life and Ramil Acosta of DECS are showing the way in the grand prix standings in the Elite and Classic sections, respectively. Both have 51 points.

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4 HULK
5 PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
6 SANIB

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I endured Ronnie's beating for 9 years, says...

From page A26

Eula yesterday clarified that she and Ronnie have been separated since Dec. 31, 2002. She had confirmed this in an earlier TV interview.

"But I never said anything bad about him (Ronnie)," Eula said. "I even said he's a good father."

Eula admitted that Richard Litonjua, the guy whom Ronnie mentioned as the cause of their breakup, is her boyfriend now. Richard is a cousin of actress Sharmaine Suarez, she said.

"But he (Richard) was never seriously involved with me while Ronnie and I were still together," Eula explained. "In fact, Richard used to go out with Ronnie and me. I was never unfaithful to Ronnie."

Out of her life

Ronnie had said on the TV show that he saw Eula in a photo together with Richard.

"That photo he was talking about was when I celebrated my birthday last December at I.O. (a karaoke bar in Makati)," Eula said. "Ronnie was even there with us."

But Ronnie yesterday said he has reasons to doubt Eula's fidelity.

"She fabricates lies and half-truths, and uses the things I tell her against me," he said. "I was trying to make a family out of something, which she never wanted in the first place. We're in the same boat. I'm struggling to make it move in the right direction. She should do the same. We should carry the burden together."

Eula complained that Ronnie was a jealous man who inspected the messages on her cell phone and read her journal. It was at the height of her popularity as Amor Powers on the now-defunct ABS-CBN soap "Pangako sa 'Yo" that Ronnie started to feel insecure, she said.

Eula also confirmed she was the one who left their house last January.

She said: "Before I left, I told Ronnie, 'I'd give you the house and my car. I just want you out of my life.' But up to this day, he still stays in that house. He was saying that our son wanted him there. In fact, on the night of his interview on 'Showbiz Sabado,' he even slept in our house."

Eula said Ronnie was often idle and stayed home, where he would smoke even in front of their son.

"There was a time my son pasted a 'No Smoking' sign in our room," Eula shared. "When Ronnie saw it, he got mad at us."

Intelligent

She said that Ronnie would leave the house purportedly to attend meetings which usually were held from midnight to 4 a.m.

"After I changed the locks on the gate last weekend, I was surprised to learn that he was there again last Monday," Eula said. "The maids told me he had to climb the fence to get inside."

Eula's mother stays in the Las Piñas house with Eula's son Miguel.

Eula said that for a long time now, Ronnie has not shouldered expenses at home, including their son's tuition.

Ronnie now works as assistant director of "Road Trip," the IBC 13 travel show hosted by his brothers Eric and Jeffrey, according to Eula.

"The only thing I like about him is that he's intelligent," Eula said. "He can talk about anything under the sun. But he thinks he's perfect. He doesn't say sorry even when he has made a mistake."

I ENDURED/A25

Derma and dentist

Talent manager and publicist Dolor Guevarra, who is very close to the Quizon family, also said there is no truth to Eula's accusations. Guevarra is the manager of Ronnie's brother, Eric.

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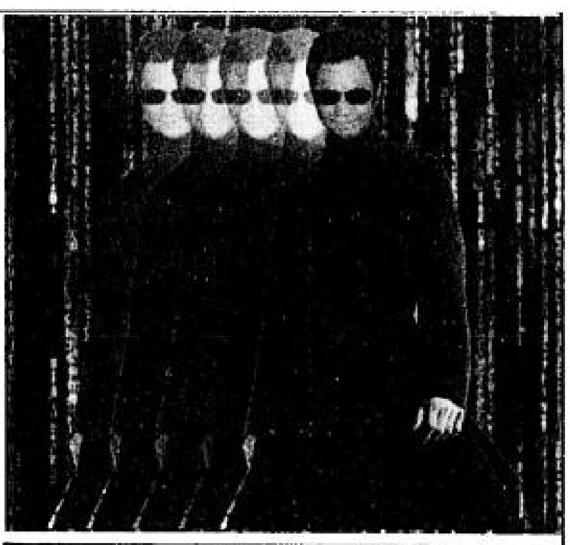
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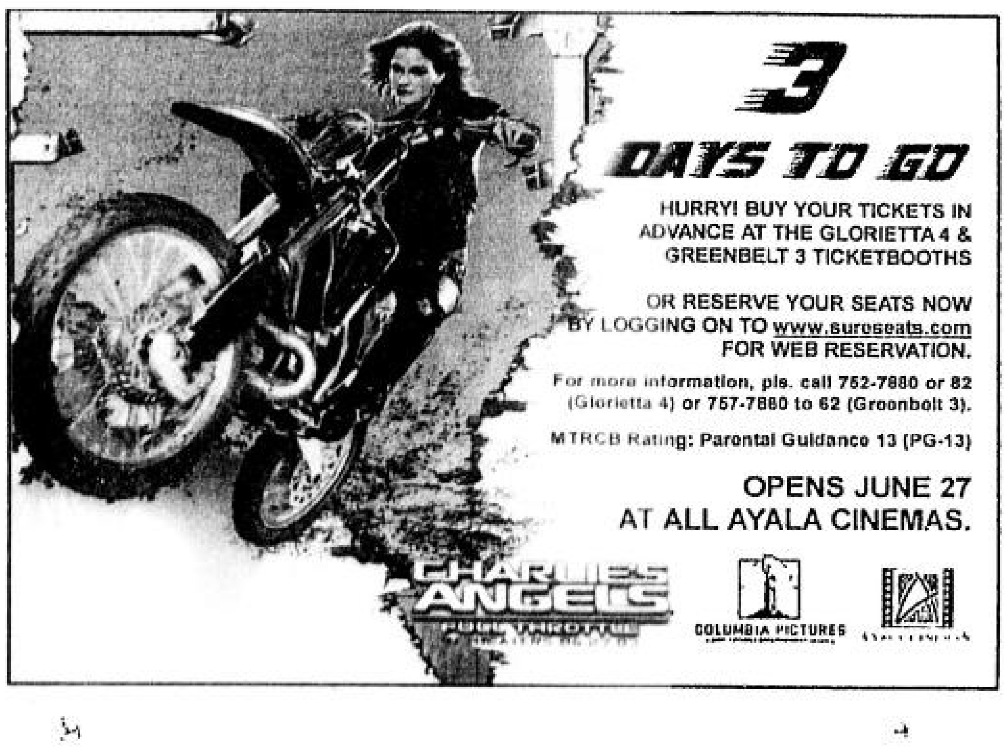
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Ali 4	THE HULK
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ODEON-2	BUKID AY BASA / KASIBULAN
ROBEN	BOLD STAR
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	SPY - LEGEND OF CROCODILE

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET A	SEX DRIVE / JAIL BRIDE
CORONET B	A MAN APART
QUEZON-1	BERTUD NG PUTIK
REMAR	X-MEN 2
REMAR-2	BOLD STAR

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	ALAB NG LAHI
B	BERTUD NG PUTIK
C	

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CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-6	HULING BIRHEN SA LUPA
CINEMA-7	MATRIX - RELOADED
CINEMA-8	OPERATION BALIKATAN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	HULK
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HULK
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	SANIB
CINEMA-12	ANG TANGING INA
CINEMA-14	BRUCE ALMIGHTY
CINEMA-15	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA

LORES

CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT

NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN

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CINEMA 2	PANGARAP KO ANG IBIGIN KA
CINEMA 3	HULK
CINEMA 4	SANIB

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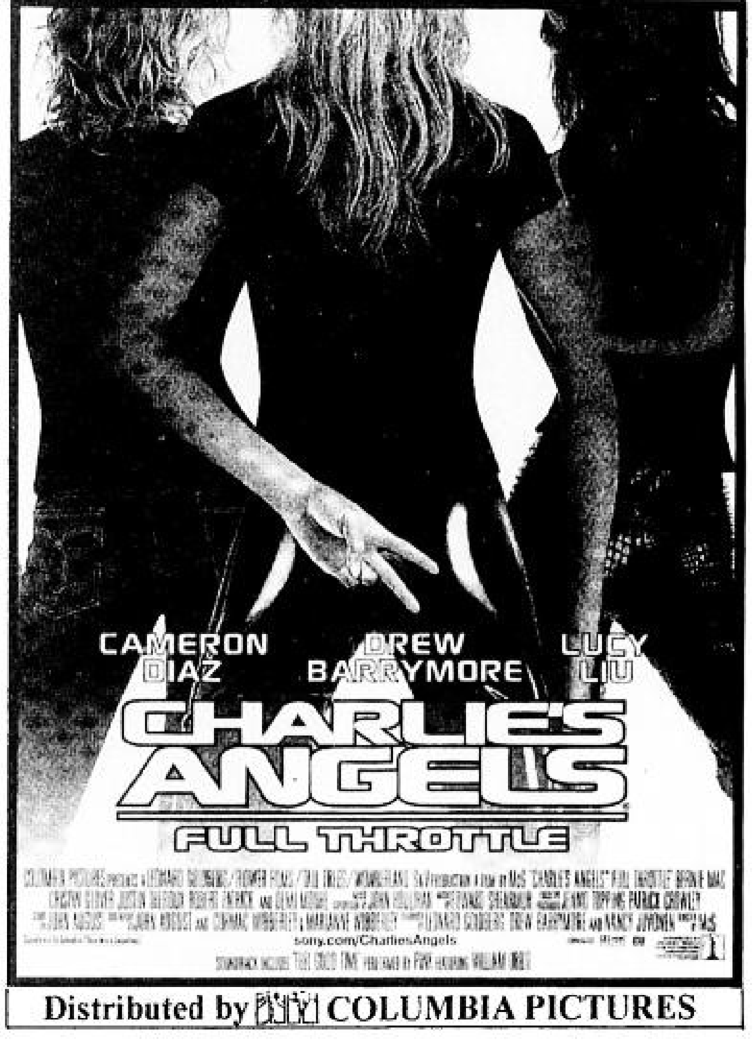
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA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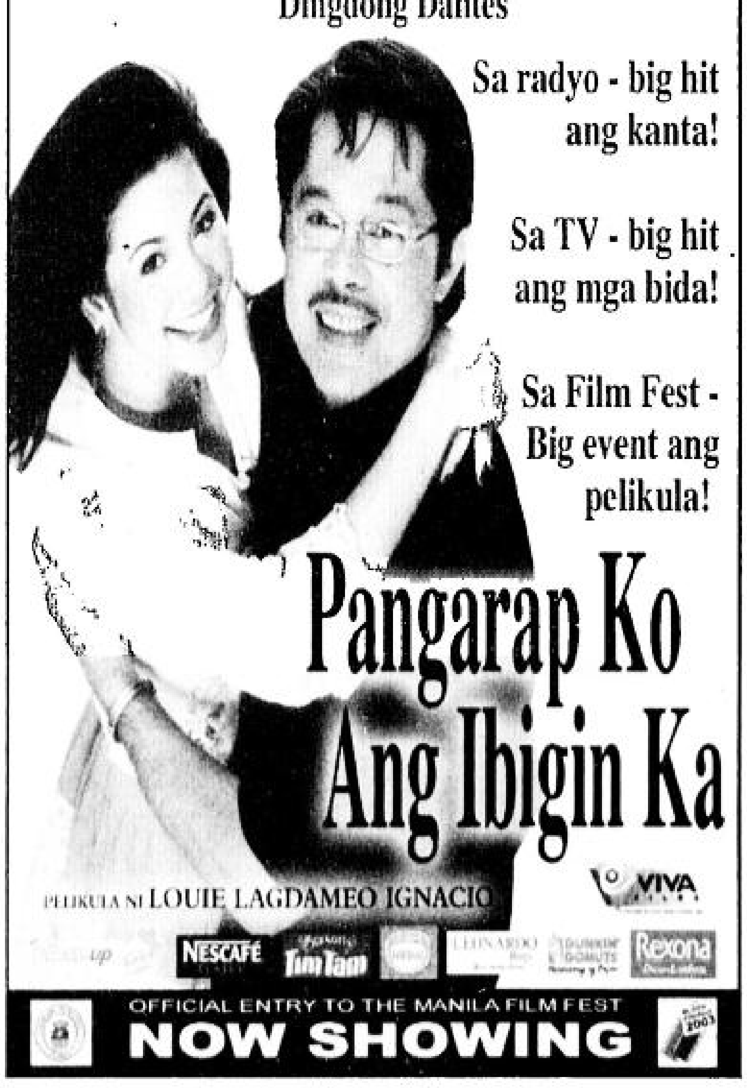
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Too much too soon for Aljo Bendijo?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

MANY readers are asking why **Aljo Bendijo** is missing in action. He used to be very visible on "Magandang Umaga Bayan" and "TV Patrol."

Is it a case of too much too soon for Aljo? Insiders claim that he developed an attitude problem and was perennially late for work. He is also said to have this strange habit of not showing up for appointments or canceling at the 11th hour.

People close to him insist that he backs out at the last minute from gracing events that have large crowds because of his shyness. People who don't know him well would mistake such behavior for cockiness.

I guess he could not handle his sudden fame properly. He used to be a newscaster for ABS-CBN's Davao station until he was plucked out to join "TV Patrol." Every aspiring newscaster would do just about anything to trade places with him, but too bad he didn't love his job enough so all the good breaks went to waste.

The trouble with landing a high-profile job is that sometimes, people tend to focus too much on the perks of the job instead of the job itself. They should consider the benefits that go with the job as incidental and not as the main basis for working. They're called fringe benefits precisely because they should be kept on the side. The preoccupation should be the occupation itself.

I got a chance to know Aljo, and he's basically a shy guy. I even wrote in a previous column that I admired how he has remained a simple *probinsyano* despite all the fame and fortune he has got. Maybe his colleagues see a different side of him that I haven't seen.

Hopefully, Aljo can still get his act together and regain his popularity. He's got what it takes. Since he has the right ingredients to begin with, perhaps what he needs now is an improved recipe to achieve the sweet taste of success all over again.

'Goodbye, God Bless'

I WOULD walk a mile and brave a storm just to catch the gigs of my most loved band, True Faith.

They play at The Forum at the Podium in Ortigas every Monday, and Streetlife at Glorietta every Tuesday. If only my schedule will permit, I would join them in their out-of-town shows. Even when I have watched them for the nth time, I never get tired of their music. And the best part of it is chilling out with the band after a show.

"Goodbye, God Bless," the latest single from True Faith's album "Grace," is fast becoming a most requested tune on radio. It's a haunting love song but not of the typical cheesy fare. **Medwin Marfil**, vocalist and my official adviser, composed that song when he moved out of his pad to go back to his parents' place in Parañaque. His ma and dad are now based in their native Cebu.

Medwin's sentiments about where he used to live could very well apply to one's feelings after a break-up.

The bubbly free spirit that Medwin is told me during one of my recent "consultations" with him: "It's the imperfections that make life wonderful. Just breeze through the ride without minding the details."

Just like all of True Faith's songs, Medwin's words of wisdom always hit me where it matters. The MTV of "Goodbye, God Bless" will soon be aired. For now, check out True Faith's superb performance with the foreign band Blue and other local artists such as **Vina Morales** and **Patricia Javier** in the MTV of the popular tune "One Love."

Just asking

COULD it be true that **James Blanco** cried like a baby when he was kicked out of "Mano Po 2?" Being a contract star of Regal Films, he felt bad that his home studio could not even protect him. Rumors are circulating to the effect that the camp of **Judy Ann Santos**, who is part of the movie, is not too keen about James being included in the cast since it could make him a bigger star which would in turn boost his love team with **Jolina Magdangal**, one of Juday's rivals. So when Mother Lily, producer of "Mano Po 2," was made to choose between Juday and James, she decided to drop James.

I think it's far-fetched for Juday's camp to feel threatened if James and Jolina's love team would flourish since Juday has long outgrown love teams and she has proven that her movies can still be box-office hits even minus a love interest.

Personal

I INVITE you all to come visit my parlor, Kolorete Salon, at the Timog Arcade in Quezon City. It's not your usual fancy parlor. I opted to give it a homey ambience so that anyone who steps inside will feel instantly comfy and relaxed. As I always say, looking good is the best revenge. See you at Kolorete and you'll see.

Super duper thanks to the staff of Enchanted Kingdom, especially to Ma'am **Tiny Florentino**, for such a wonderful time at E.K.when they invited me to be their celebrity storyteller last Saturday. Since I've always been "childlike" (read: *batang isip*), being at E.K. is always such a delight.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

BENDIJO. Where are you?

RJ Rosales: Theater is good, but I sing, too

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

RJ ROSALES considers his career in theater one of the best things that ever happened to him.

Aside from playing the lead role of Chang in Action Theater's "Chang and Eng–The Musical" in Singapore, Bangkok and Kuala Lumpur, RJ has also played the role of Captain Tarnitz in Singapore Lyric Opera's "The Student Prince" and the role of Ibarra in "Filipinas Circa 1880–the Musical" that ran in Australia.

But RJ also considers his being known as a theater personality one of the biggest hindrances to his career in mainstream show business, particularly in the recording industry.

"Being known as a theater personality is a good reputation," says the 27-year-old RJ, "but it has also worked against me because many people think that just because I was in theater, I am elitist or *suplado*. They cannot seem to think of me as a recording artist."

Rosales, now one of the hosts of the Sunday noon show "Asap" on ABS-CBN, even considers it "strange" that he is known as a theater artist when theater is only a small part of his career. He says he was only in "Chang and Eng" for two months in 1998 and then he rejoined the musical in 1999 when the play toured Bangkok and Malaysia.

"That's really the extent of my theater experience, so it is a bit strange to hear people say that I am a theater artist," he says.

The image, however, can't seem to be shaken off. So, RJ and his sister Maricel have decided to independently produce his own album as well as to handle its marketing and promotion.

"I am lucky that I have friends who are willing to help us, like the team of Margot Gallardo, Edith Gallardo and Moy Ortiz who also produced Aiza Seguerra's 'Pagdating ng Panahon'," he says.

The album, he says, will have just five tracks–two revival and three original compositions, including his current single "Tulad ng Dati." He hopes it would only be the start of his career as a recording artist.

RJ considers Martin Nievera his role model for his singing career because of Martin's work discipline and his penchant for perfection.

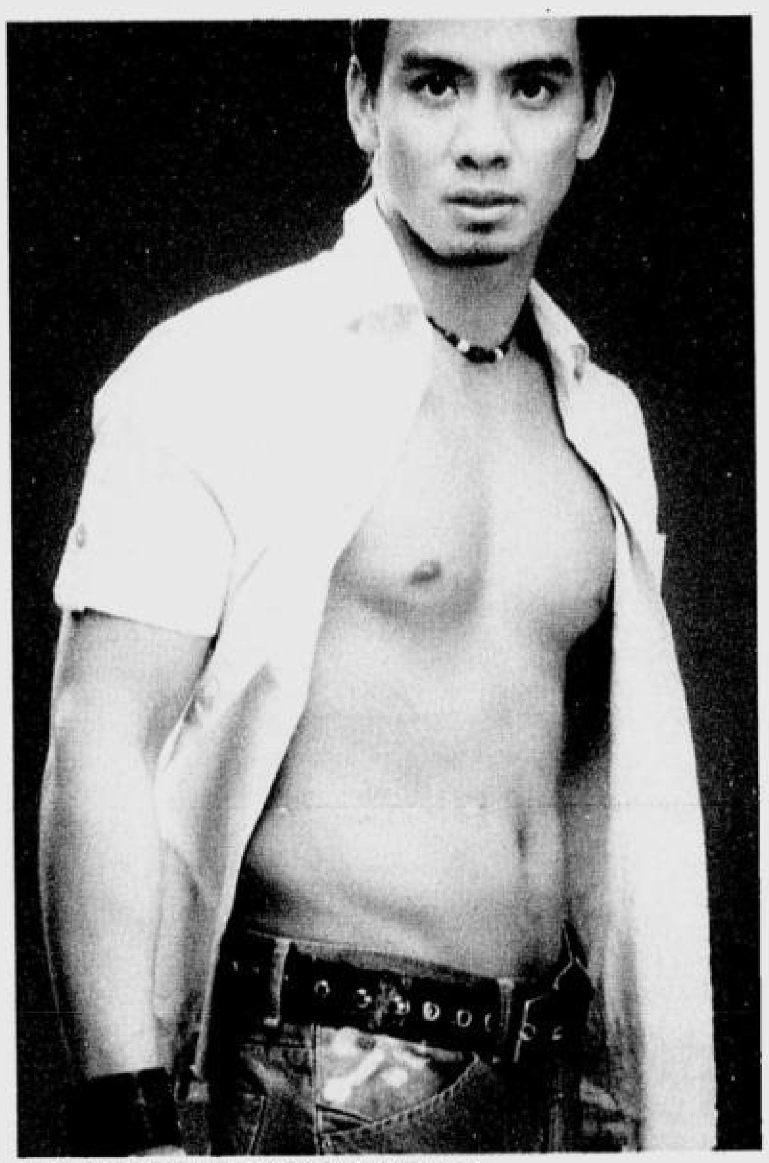
"I admire the way he would still rehearse songs even if he already knows them," he says of Martin. "I want to be like that."

He learned this discipline from theater, and he says it is still the best for an artist who wants to be intimate with his audience.

"There is fulfillment in being in theater because you are more intimate with the audience," he says. "There is instant response, and stage fright becomes a thing of the past."

RJ knows all about stage fright as he has had to battle it when he was growing up. He says he was an extremely shy boy growing up in the Philippines and then in Australia, and he would often lock himself in his room and there belt out his favorite songs.

RJ Rosales showed the other side of him last night at Hard Rock Café, in a concert called "Revelead and Justified–A Nite with RJ Rosales." He sang R & B, Latin and classics.



ROSALES. His role model is Martin Nievera.

Low blows

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

WHEN people make it in show business, they're on top of the world. As thousands cheer, the flavors of the year feel like they can do no wrong. On the other hand, when audiences turn against show biz celebrities' latest efforts, their world crashes down, and they can't seem to do anything right. Take these three recent examples:

At the 2003 Cannes film festival, "The Brown Bear," a film directed by actor **Vincent Gallo**, was deemed so bad that viewers tried to boo it off the screen. They found its long driving scenes interminable, and were outraged by the graphic oral sex scene at the end of the movie.

Bitterly hurt and chastened, Gallo vowed never to make a film again. But his critics weren't mollified and continued to savage his movie, which he agreed was "a disaster and a waste of time."

Cannes was also the scene of another debacle, experienced by French director **Bertrand Blier's** "Les Cotelettes" which was the recipient of resounding boos and was even voted the festival's most unpopular film.

Blier's film is about two old men who make love to a young cleaning woman. Viewers were turned off by it because it failed to sustain its momentum. Unlike Gallo, however, Blier was unrepentant and attributed his movie's poor showing to the fastidiousness of the reviewers who had criticized his film to bits.

Finally, at the recent Academy of Country Music awards, it was the turn of the Dixie Chicks to be booed at by music fans who had been turned off by the singing group's comments against US President **George W. Bush** and the United States' military involvement in Iraq.

The Dixie Chicks were among the nominees for entertainers of the year–but, given their unpopularity due to their politically incorrect remarks, they didn't stand the ghost of a chance to win the prized award!

Feedback

FROM **Emmanuel S. Espino** of Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija: "Star Cinema should continue to make good movies for the Filipino viewing public. It has the most modern equipment which can be utilized in interesting ways, like the opening sequence of 'Tanging Ina,' which used cartoons.

"I was amused by that, and I hope that, in the coming months, Star Cinema will decide to produce a full-length animated film, or an animated TV series of the movie 'Tanging Ina' which would be a groundbreaking move.

"I also recommend the new TV show, 'Kontrobersyal,' hosted by **Boy Abunda**. The show is both informative and inspirational."

Cinemanila honors Fil-Ams

THE 2003 Makati Cinemanila International Film Festival opens on Aug. 7 at Onstage Greenbelt in Makati City.

Invited to attend the opening ceremonies are Filipino-American Hollywood celebrities **Lou Diamond Philips, Tia Carrere, Dean Devlin, Fritz Friedman** and **Rob Schneider**.

They will be given awards for their coming to the aid of Filipino war veterans, and for being models of excellence in their field. The screening of their films will be a part of the festival.

Philips, Carrere and Schneider are well-known actors. Devlin is the producer of blockbusters like "The Patriot" and "Independence Day." And Fritz Friedman is senior vice president of worldwide publicity for Columbia Tristar Home video, the video distribution arm of Sony Corp.

The festival runs from Aug. 7 to 24 at the Greenbelt cinemas in Makati City.

Winefest

PATRONS at the Richmonde Hotel are invited to a feast of wines at the Richmonde Grill. For P350++, they can savor any or all of the wines featured in the buffet spread, either with their meal, or after dinner. The winefest is on until June 30, from 6 to 10 p.m.

Musical-comedy trio

J02K, formerly the Blind Items, will perform on June 27 at the East River Channel Bar and Restaurant at Riverbanks in Marikina. Call Leslie at 934-6782. On July 16, the musical-comedy trio will entertain habitués at the 22nd Street Sing-Along Bar on Marcos Highway.

J02K members are **Joel Olivera, Kaye Javier** and **Jinky Oda**. Call 435-1108.

Aliw Theater 'not responsible for sound system'

ALIW Theater, the venue of last Saturday night's Manila Film Festival awards show, was not responsible for the sound system, which an INQUIRER Entertainment story had described as "bad."

The theater was just the venue for the event and "had no control over the staging" of the show, said Aliw technical director Jaime Villanueva.

"This task was solely on the shoulders of the production outfit hired by the film fest organizers, which is Solar Entertainment," Villanueva said in a letter to INQUIRER Entertainment.

He was reacting to the story "2003 Manila Film Festival: The sound system was bad, but no one was embarrassed" that appeared here last Sunday.

The story noted that in the 2002 awards show, technical glitches had made Megastar Sharon Cuneta stop in the middle of her song and leave the stage, and host Dina Bonnevie was annoyed when her presenter son Oyo Boy Sotto was introduced by mistake as Piolo Pascual.

Villanueva said Vitan Lights and Sounds provided the sound system and Solar Entertainment provided the sound engineer for Saturday's show.

"The only pieces of equipment that were used that night that belonged to Aliw Theater were the 93 PAR 64 lights, the air conditioning and one generator for power," Villanueva pointed out.

He stressed that "our theater had nothing to do with the quality of the show, especially the sound system, as the system used was not the theater's sound system." *Marinel R. Cruz*

Eula: I endured Ronnie's beating...

From page A24

Eula said she was hurt when Ronnie said on TV that he never felt loved while they were still together.

"I even offered to produce his album, but my manager (Cornelia Lee, or Angge) advised me against it because it would cost me half a million pesos and she said it was no joke trying to recoup that," Eula said.

"I was always concerned about his looks," she said. "I wanted to bring him to a dermatologist for his face or to the dentist, but he didn't want to go."

But she said Ronnie's TV confession did not surprise her.

"I was expecting him to do something because I know how his mind works," Eula said. "But what I didn't know was what he would say. I know that after this, he would retaliate. I'm ready. *Maglabasan na kami ng baho.*"

The other guy

"I'm not scared for myself. I'm scared for my son because I know he will be greatly affected with this. Ronnie said he only wants a peaceful life for our son. But with what he said on TV, how can our son have a peaceful life now?"

Eula, 35, met Ronnie, 38, in the Star Olympics in 1993. Eula was then still involved with a man who was from a prominent political family, who didn't give her up even when she started to date Ronnie.

"My relationship with Ronnie was fast," she said. "Within one year, I was already pregnant. Now, when I look back, I wish I had ended up with that other guy, who was willing to marry me."

Eula said the guy from the political family has remained single.

She said she and Ronnie almost got married in 2000. "Fortunately, it didn't happen," she added. "God still loves me."

Cloning leads to funny mishaps in 'Repli-Kate'

FROM the producers of "American Pie" comes the sexy comedy "Repli-Kate."

"Repli-Kate" is about a geneticist (Eugene Levy) who accidentally clones a beautiful girl whom he loves madly. Ali Landry plays both the role of the original girl and the clone.

After he replicates her, the geneticist goes one step further and teaches his beautiful creation to have the mind of a man. He teaches her to be a slob, cuss, drink beer, gobble pizza and want sex all the time.

Comedic mishaps abound as the scientist's male woman proves that the feminine intellect offers an important contrast to that of the male.

Released by Artisan Entertainment, "Repli-Kate" is now available on VHS and VCD and is distributed by C-Interactive Digital Entertainment.

For information, call 373-4760 or 461-2141.

New Sony 'weapon' in 'Angels'

SHOW TIME

SONY Ericsson and "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" unleash the newest wireless secret weapon on audiences nationwide.

Sony Ericsson is partnering with Columbia Pictures on the latter's latest action-adventure-comedy, "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle." The Angels are again battling forces of evil with the world's most advanced technologies, including the Son-Ericsson T610 mobile phone.

Sony Ericsson's previous blockbusters include the James Bond movies, "The World is Not Enough" and "Die Another Day," as well as "Lara Croft Tomb Raider."

The Sony Ericsson T610 and other Sony Ericsson mobile phones will make several appearances in the movie and are an integral part of the story line. The Angels are aided by the Sony Ericsson T610, a mobile phone that doubles as a camera. "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle" will be in theaters beginning June 27, 2003.

ENTERTAINME
entertainment@inquirer.com.ph
Louie C. Camino

I endured Ronnie's beating for 9 years, says Eula; she's the violent one, he says

By Leah Salterio

TV VILLAIN, real-life "victim" Eula Valdez says she likes his intelligence

HAPPY TIMES. Ronnie (left), and Eula's current boyfriend Richard Litonjua (right), with Sharmaine Suarez (second from left) and Kay Tongco.

EULA Valdez, well known as the scheming villain Amor Powers on TV, yesterday admitted for the first time that her former live-in partner Ronnie Quizon repeatedly punched and slapped her throughout their nine-year relationship.

"*Sabi nila, 'pag pinagbuhatan ka ng kamay, isang beses lang dapat 'yun*," Eula said. "*Pero tumagal pa ako ng* nine years."

But Ronnie, son of comedy king Dolphy, countered that Eula has violent tendencies. He called her allegations "lies."

Ronnie is the brother of actors Eric and Jeffrey Quizon. Their mother, Baby Smith, is based in Torrance, California.

Eula and Ronnie have an eight-year-old son, Miguel, third grader at St. Benedict College in Alabang.

"I talked to his dad (Dolphy) early this year and I told him, '*Hindi ko na po talaga kaya*,'" she said. "Tito Dolphy even hugged me after we talked."

She said that when she and Ronnie were still living together, she would report to the set of her ABS-CBN soap operas with bruises in different parts of the body.

"My directors and the other production staffers knew about it, although we never discussed it seriously," Eula said. "They would simply joke about it and I'd take it lightly."

Eula said that in one of their biggest fights in 2001, her mom even got involved when she tried to stop them. Eula said Ronnie pushed her mother, who hit her head on the edge of a table and suffered a contusion and hematoma.

She said that as a result of her injuries, her mother had to be confined at the Alabang Medical Center.

'Hindi ko na po talaga kaya,' she told Dolphy

Ronnie clarified he didn't push Eula's mother.

"She (Eula) was destroying stuff at that time," Ronnie said. "She got the computer keyboard and she wanted to smash it, so I grabbed it from her. Her mom tried to stop us. Eula pushed me and I came in contact with her mom, who was accidentally pushed."

"In our first year together," Eula said, "he banged my head on the window of our car. We fought about little things, and he showed his anger even in front of other people."

Good father

Saturday afternoon, Ronnie talked about his relationship with Eula on nationwide TV, on the ABS-CBN show biz program, "Showbiz Sabado." He told host Cristy Fermin that Eula caused the breakup of their relationship because she has a boyfriend.

Ronnie said it was Eula who left their house in Pilar Village, Las Piñas.

The alleged beating was not mentioned in the Saturday show.

Ronnie, in throwing back the accusations at Eula, yesterday told INQUIRER Entertainment that in one of their fights when their son was only four, Eula attempted to stab him.

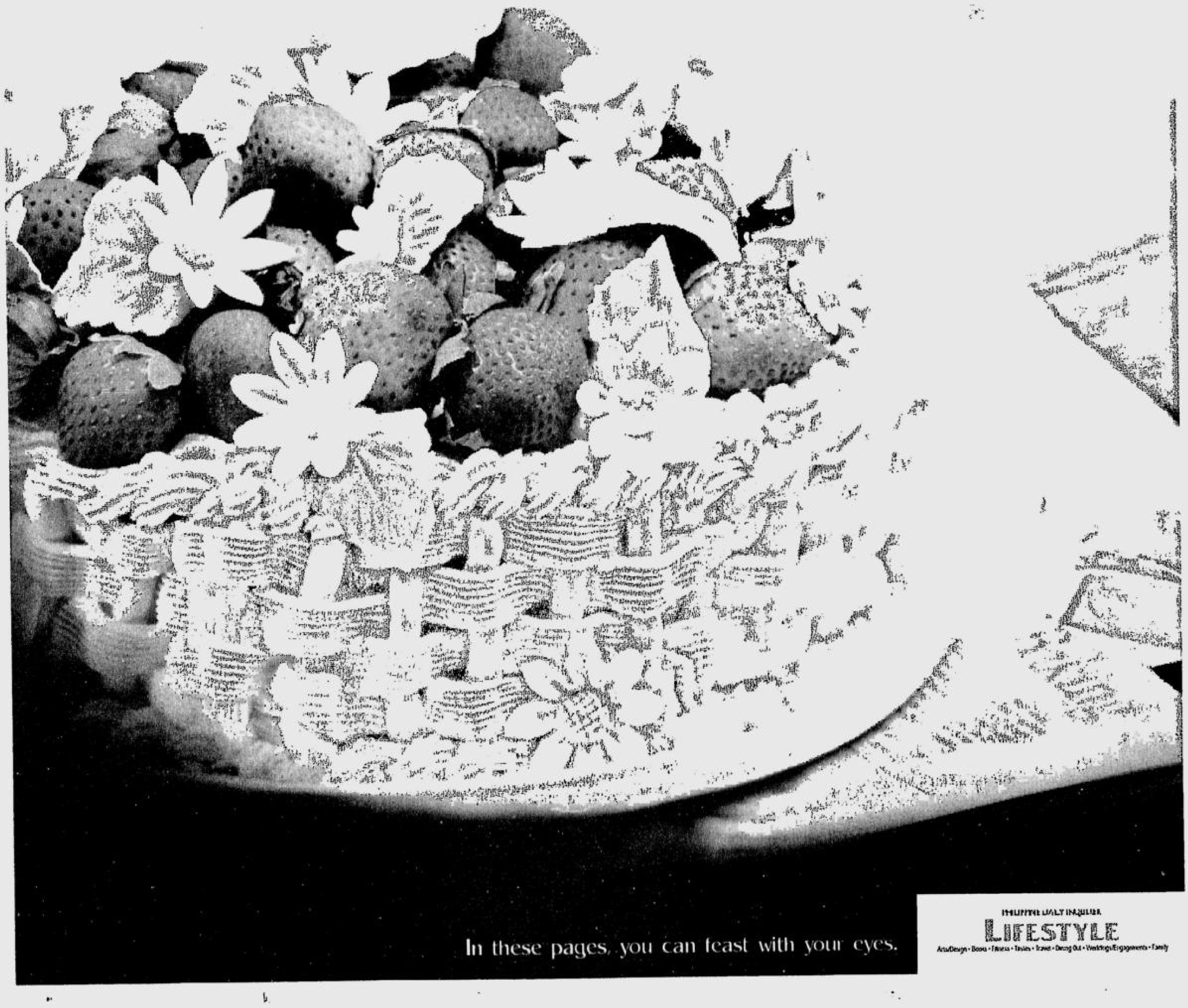
"I was able to evade the stab, I got the knife and twisted her wrist," Ronnie said. "That's why my defenses are up when she's mad."

He said Eula sustained bruises in the body during their fights because he tried to restrain her from being violent.

"She can be destructive," he said. "Once, she punched the wall in the room of our son. Naturally, she sustained bruises in the arm. What she doesn't tell people is that she can get bruises without being touched, when she has her period.

"She is on a fault-finding mission because of her guilt," he added. "Who would respect her for quitting a relationship because of petty quarrels? She sacrificed her family."

I ENDURED/ A24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91-day T-bill rate hits 5-month low

By Doris C. Dumlao

TREASURY bill rates softened across the board for the fifth straight auction yesterday, with the benchmark 91-day maturity averaging at a five-month low of 5.498 percent from last week's 5.666 percent.

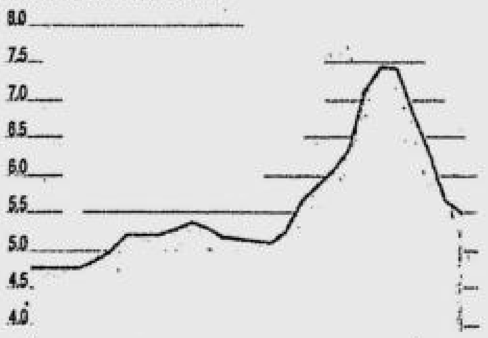
Traders said the continued slowdown--despite expectations that interest rates might be nearing the bottom—was supported by the better-than-expected revenue performance by the government for the second straight month in May.

The market tried to bid up the 182-day tenor, although this was negated by the rejection by the Bureau of Treasury of some of the bids, resulting in an award of only P2.5 billion for this maturity as against the P3-billion offer. This tenor averaged 6.393 percent from last week's 6.479 percent.

"It's difficult to price the 182-day T-bill rate even in the secondary market. You cannot expect the bids to be clear. There will always be some aberration in the pricing," Deputy Treasurer Eduardo Mendiola told reporters.

91-DAY TREASURY BILL RATES

June 10, 2002 to June 23, 2003



Source: Technistock, Bureau of Treasury

The 364-day rate averaged 6.833 percent against last week's 6.898 percent, with a full award of the P2.5-billion offering for this maturity.

The Treasury likewise awarded in full its P4-billion offering for the 91-day maturity, which is used by banks in pricing their loans.

The 91-day rate during the fortnightly auction yesterday was the lowest since Jan. 20, 2003.

Reflective of the cash-awash market following recent monetary easing by the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, tenders for the three maturities totaled P13.64 billion or much higher than the P9 billion in total offering.

It was the first auction that discounted the smaller-than-expected budget deficit reported by the government for the month of May.

Mendiola said the government was happy with the results of the auction despite the partial rejection on the 182-day papers. He said the market was digesting a string of favorable news such as the benign inflation and the improving government fiscal position.

"The trend shows that the government will be able to meet its deficit target," he said.

The government hopes to keep its budget shortfall within P202 billion this year.

Last Thursday, the government reported a budget deficit of P9.9 billion for the month of May, well below the P20-billion ceiling for the month. This brought the five-month gap to P75.4 billion against the P88.6-billion ceiling for the period.

BIR reviews compliance of AUVs with 10-seater rule

By Michelle V. Remo

THE BUREAU of Internal Revenue re-measured the seating capacities of the Honda CR-V and other Asian utility vehicles yesterday to determine once and for all which will be exempted from the payment of the excise tax.

Revenue Commissioner Guillermo Parayno Jr. said the results would be submitted to the bureau's legal panel, which will check on the compliance of the measurements with the seat specifications stated under RR 14-1999, which governs the imposition of the excise tax on motor vehicles.

The legal panel will, in turn, submit its assessment to the BIR's management committee and should be signed by the commissioner before it is submitted to Congress.

Results of the re-measurement showed that the shape of the CR-V's entire middle row seat was not a perfect rectangle, thereby creating two different measurements for the width of each seat. A single seat is equal to the entire row divided by the number of passengers fitted.

Under the current BIR ruling, vehicles with a seating capacity of 10 or more are exempted from the payment of the excise tax. But each seating capacity should have a width of 35 cm and a length of 60 cm in order to qualify for the exemption.

According to Linda Simple, assistant commissioner for inspection service, the determination of whether or not the Honda CR-V is qualified for the tax exemption would lie on the decision of what basis to use--whether the minimum or the maximum measurement of the width of each seating capacity.

Should the minimum width (27.75 for manual and 27.5 for automatic) be used, CR-V would not fit the 35-cm requirement. But should the maximum width (35.75 cm for manual and 35.5 for automatic) be used as a basis, the vehicle would comply with the width requirement.

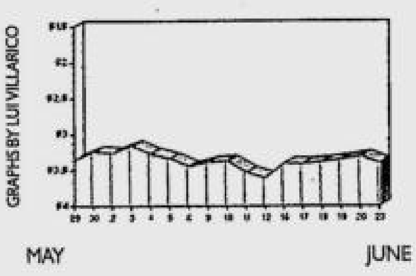
Parayno said the initiative to conduct a re-measurement of the seating capacities of the vehicles came after Congress instructed the BIR to submit its comment and position on the tax exemption currently granted to Asian utility vehicles, some of which were insinuated to have circumvented the revenue regulation in order to qualify for the exemption.

Doubts were raised on the inclusion of some vehicles, mostly sport utility vehicles, in the exemption since some car manufacturers were alleged to have just placed jump seats at the back to comply with the 10-seater rule.

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES

PESO-DOLLAR RATE



P 53.40 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 23, 2003

¥ 118.06 = $1

As of 5 p.m., June 23, 2003

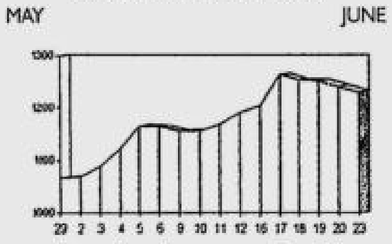
GOLD: $357.10-357.60

per ounce Hong Kong, June 23, 2003

STOCK MARKET

Stocks down

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

SHARE prices closed 0.87 percent lower yesterday as investors stayed on the sidelines ahead of a US Federal Reserve meeting, which is widely expected to cut interest rates, dealers said.

"Investors preferred to stay on the sidelines until a decision from the US Fed is out," said Mark Alan Canizares of Citisec-online.com.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index lost 10.78 points to 1,229.90, having traded between 1,224.47 and 1,243.76.

Turnover fell to 407.75 million shares worth P262.35 million compared to 789.31 million shares worth P454.7 million traded on Friday.

Losers beat gainers 43 to 21, with 40 stocks unchanged.

"If Fed does not cut (rates), that is an indication that the US economy is in good health. If the the Fed cuts, that is also good for us because that will spur economic activity and will enable the local central bank to match the move," said Gomer Tan of Regina Capital Development.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. rose P5 to P530, while SM Prime Holdings was down 10 centavos to P5.80.

Manila Electric Co. (Meralco) "A" fell 20 centavos to P9.60, while Meralco "B" finished unchanged at P14.50. *AFP*

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Technical analysis using a computer

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

AND the Lord said unto Noah, "Go forth and build an Ark, not one with a single deck but with 15 decks. And do not fill it with the creatures that roam the earth. Fill it with fish, especially carp." Noah labored for 7 years, and the Lord was mighty pleased. Overcome with curiosity, Noah asked, "Lord, why have you made such a strange request?" And the Lord said, "I have always wanted a multi-story CARP ARK."

Last Saturday, I made the mistake of going into a bookstore. The place was packed and they would not let me Potter around. They kept telling me to Harry up, witches very rude. My daughter wanted to become a witch but she can't spell. She came home last week with a packet of peppermints. She gave three to the children next door, five to our neighbors, one to me and the last one to my wife. "What are you doing?" I asked. "Oh," she replied. "I am doing my assign mints."

Hillary Clinton has written her autobiography and it is hilarious. She recounts how she went into a store and bought a packet of condoms. "Shall I charge it?" said the salesman. "No, put it on my Bill."

The government is going ahead with its sin tax though I expect they will exempt the Cardinal.

Here are some more books to read. *Fractions* by Lois D. Nominator, *Desserts* by Sue Flay, *Dentistry* by Phil Macavity, *The Brain* by Sarah Bellum, and *Landmines* by Hugo First.

I ordered a pizza and gave my name as Good King Wenseslas. When asked how I wanted my pizza cooked, I replied "Deep pan, crisp and even."

* * *

TWO weeks ago, I thought I would arouse some interest by submitting a serious article showing KAGI and the degree of risk. I received one inquiry about the charts and 46 complaints that there were no jokes so I went back to my old format. Last week, I had nearly 100 e-mails saying that readers were fascinated by the charts and wanted to learn more. Some said they did not even read my jokes, even though they are punny. So this week, I will submit a candlestick chart together with the risk-meter, which I consider indispensable.

However, I will assume no previous knowledge on the part of the reader.

Most of my mail came from students who want to learn, from investors whose knowledge is scanty. One good thing that has come out of this is that starting last week, I now include in my daily newsletter, various types of charts showing degree-of-risk on one active stock. In one month, I will cover the 20 most active stocks and, when there is a definite signal on any stock, I will send it out immediately. That will add additional value to my daily newsletter.

There are four main types of charts. The simplest is a line chart, which can be applied to anything, your temperature, for example. You simply plot the closing price of a stock, commodity or currency and join up the dots. This gives you only limited information and is not much use. A better idea is

MR. BEARBULL/ B3

GOLFERS
CLUB SHARES, INC.
SEC LICENSE # A 1998 2129
AS OF JUNE 23, 2003

		SELLING	BUYING
1	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,400,000	1,280,000
2	ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,500,000	1,250,000
3	BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	650,000	600,000
4	CANLUBANG GOLF CLUB	450,000	430,000
5	CAMP JOHN HAY	230,000	200,000
6	CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB		130,000
7	CELEBRITY SPORTS PLAZA	180,000	170,000
8	CLUB FILIPINO	150,000	130,000
9	COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY	400,000	350,000
10	MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	220,000
11	MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,200,000
12	MANILA POLO CLUB	2,400,000	2,200,000
13	MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF A/B	500,000/600,000	450,000
14	ORCHARD GOLF CLUB A.B.C	Please call	165,000
15	QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	200,000	
16	RIVIERA GOLF CLUB A/B/C	Please call	Please call
17	STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,600,000	1,300,000
18	TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS GOLF	750,000	
19	TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF	720,000	650,000
20	VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	150,000	120,000
21	VALLEY GOLF CLUB	300,000	260,000
22	WACK WACK GOLF CLUB		6,200,000

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INQUIRIES

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, June 23, 2003)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	100,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18.75	18.75	18.75	18.75	134,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	48.5	48.5	47	48	253,000
China Banking Corp.	730	730	730	730	100
Citystate Savings Bank	14.5	14.5	14.5	14.5	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	35.5	35.5	34	34	75,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31.5	31.5	31	31	86,700
Prudential Bank	350	350	350	350	210
Philippine National Bank	24.75	24.75	24.5	24.5	10,400
Security Bank Corp.	13	13	12.5	12.75	13,100
Manulife Financial Corp.	1480	1480	1480	1480	4,070
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1080	1080	1070	1080	630
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.5	48,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc	0.77	0.77	0.76	.76	1,610,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	620	625	610	610	4,490
Ipeople Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	.71	90,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.043	0.043	0.043	.043	700,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	.024	1,000,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	103,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	0.42	0.44	0.42	.43	5,530,000
Phil. Telegraph & Tel. Co	0.21	0.21	0.2	.2	200,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	525	530	520	530	106,140
Ivantage Corp.	0.44	0.44	0.43	0.44	640,000
Philweb Corp.	0.013	0.013	0.012	0.013	6,200,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	9.8	9.9	9.6	9.6	296,000
Manila Electric Co. B	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.5	1,629,300
Petron Corp.	2.02	2.02	1.98	2	1,425,000
Salcon Power Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	10,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	3	3	3	3	2,189,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	.3	280,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	2.1	2.12	2.1	2.12	55,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.47	0.47	0.45	.45	610,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.9	2.9	2.85	2.85	301,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	30.5	30.5	30.5	30.5	71,600
Jollibee Foods Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.25	17.5	599,200
RFM Corp.	0.79	0.8	0.79	.8	610,000
Swift Food Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	500,000
San Miguel Corp. A	54.5	54.5	54	54.5	37,000
San Miguel Corp. B	63	63	63	63	109,500
Universal Robina Corp.	4.85	4.85	4.85	4.85	30,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.24	0.24	120,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.33	0.34	0.33	.34	30,000
Ayala Corp.	4.9	4.95	4.85	4.9	1,970,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.36	2.36	2.36	2.36	42,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.033	0.033	0.032	.032	10,000,000
APC Group Inc.	0.075	0.0775	0.075	0.0775	1,200,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	7,000,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.76	1.62	1.76	70,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.15	0.15	0.15	.15	150,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.53	0.55	0.53	.54	9,270,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	.07	200,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.18	0.185	0.17	.17	1,670,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.235	0.235	0.23	.23	1,200,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	12.25	13.25	12.25	13	1,609,300
Global Equities Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.09	0.09	2,200,000
Ionics Inc.	0.87	0.87	0.84	.85	310,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	126,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.73	0.74	0.73	.74	1,620,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.27	0.28	0.26	.27	33,660,000
Music Corp.	0.37	0.37	0.35	.35	2,110,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.045	0.045	0.045	0.045	600,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	.3	100,000
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.08	0.085	0.08	.085	300,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	.07	4,500,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	150,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Cerro-Coat Inc.	1.28	1.32	1.28	1.32	30,000
Metro Alliance Hldgs B	1	1	1	1	10,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	1.66	1.76	1.66	1.74	19,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	15.75	15.75	15.75	15.75	24,700
Steniel Manufacturing	0.11	0.14	0.11	.14	400,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.55	0.55	0.52	.53	3,740,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	400,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.4	0.42	0.39	0.39	770,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	.27	280,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.36	.37	1,280,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	20.75	20.75	20.25	20.25	719,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10	10	10	10	1,600
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6	6.1	5.8	5.8	1,519,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.27	0.27	0.27	.27	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	420,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	.21	200,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.15	0.16	0.15	0.15	2,000,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.225	0.23	0.22	.22	7,200,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.06	1.1	1.02	1.02	9,421,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.14	0.17	0.13	.13	4,480,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.195	0.2	0.195	.195	300,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	20,000
SM Development Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	8,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.9	5.9	5.8	5.8	3,594,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0038	0.0036	0.0038	115,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	0.98	0.98	0.98	.98	50,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.185	0.185	0.185	.185	20,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	60,000
Omico Corp.	0.0042	0.0042	0.004	.004	93,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	50,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.06	0.06	0.06	.06	1,700,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.013	0.012	0.013	1,300,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	.0026	40,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	.0026	7,000,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	.01	3,700,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.032	0.032	0.032	0.032	1,100,000

DISCLOSURES

AYALA Land Inc. declared a cash dividend of P0.03 per share in favor of stockholders of record as of July 25 and will be payable on Aug. 20.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Zipporah Realty Holdings Inc. were Santiago Cua, Exequiel Robles, Alejandro Saulog Jr., Henry Cua Loping, Brigido Dulay, Rolando Castro, Mariza Santos Tan, Benjamin Santos, Alfonso Reyno Jr., Tomas Clemente III and Ruben Encinas.

* * *

PRUDENTIAL Bank disclosed the extension of the contracts of senior vice president A. Benedicto Santos and vice presidents Lauro Jocson, Manolo Hilario, Alberto Lim and Felipe Gella.

* * *

SINOPHIL Corp. will reduce the number of its directors from 11 to seven.

* * *

ELECTED directors of SQL Wizard Inc. were Enriquez Pelaez, Alberto Formoso Jr., Antonio Lasala, Heraldina Salonga, Hermenegildo Hermoso, Evelyn Engel and Lillian Cariaso. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

June 23, 2003 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.862143	1.000000	53.279000
Japan	Yen	0.007285	0.008450	0.450200
United Kingdom	Pound	1.432624	1.661700	88.533700
Hongkong	Dollar	0.110551	0.128228	6.831900
Switzerland	Franc	0.648570	0.752276	40.080500
Canada	Dollar	0.633603	0.734916	39.155600
Singapore	Dollar	0.496340	0.575705	30.673000
Australia	Dollar	0.575914	0.668003	35.590500
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.286974	2.652661	141.331100
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.229899	0.266660	14.207400
Brunei	Dollar	0.494916	0.574053	30.585000
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000105	0.000122	0.006500
Thailand	Baht	0.020729	0.024044	1.281000
UAE	Dirham	0.234731	0.272264	14.506000
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.159900	61.798300
Argentina	Peso	0.307908	0.357143	19.028200
Brazil	REAL	0.299876	0.347826	18.531800
Denmark	Kroner	0.134659	0.156191	8.321700
India	Rupee	0.018552	0.021519	1.146500
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.226910	0.263193	14.022700
Mexico	New Peso	0.082164	0.095302	5.077600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.504000	0.584590	31.146400
Norway	Kroner	0.122153	0.141685	7.548800
Pakistan	Rupee	0.014913	0.017298	0.921600
South Africa	Rand	0.109582	0.127104	6.772000
Korea	Won	0.000724	0.000840	0.044800
Sweden	Kroner	0.110175	0.127792	6.808600
Syria	Pound	0.020528	0.023810	1.268600
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025012	0.029011	1.545700
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000541	0.000627	0.033400

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Ateneo de Manila University
Janeth A. Aguila
BA Economics
Cum Laude
Reagan C. Lim
BS Management Engineering
Matthew Benedict F. Ona
BS Management
Cum Laude

Central Philippine University (Iloilo City)
Rene Keith Gareth T. Arandilla
BS Electronics & Comm. Eng'g.

De La Salle University
Leah Marie R. Babasa
BS Accountancy
Honorable Mention

Holy Cross of Davao College (Davao City)
Annaliza Z. Opada
BS Accountancy

Saint Louis University (Baguio City)
Joseph R. Mendoza
BS Accountancy

San Beda College
Ramon Leo L. Gavan
BSC Computer Applications & Informations Science
John Rudolf L. Aguinaldo
BSC Computer Applications & Information Science
major in Commerce

Silliman University (Dumaguete City)
Irish Ann J. Fabugais
BBA Management

UP - Diliman
Jemima R. Angeles
BS Business Administration

UP - Los Baños
Jennifer Joy T. Conde
BS Economics
Cum Laude

University of San Agustin (Iloilo City)
Roy C. Yongque
BSC Management Accounting

University of St. La Salle (Bacolod City)
Rizel Joy J. Jimenea
BSC Management Accounting

University of Sto. Tomas
Joanna F. Depante
BSC Accountancy
Kristine B. Asinas
BS Commerce
Iliecy D. Homol
BS Commerce
Magna Cum Laude
Bernadette B. Oreta
BS Commerce
Cum Laude

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JUDICIAL REFORM

RP seeks $22-M WB loan

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT is finalizing a $22-million project loan from the World Bank to reform the judicial system, identified as a vulnerable area in the multilateral agency's earlier report on corruption in the country.

In an interview, Finance Undersecretary Juanita Amatong said she went to Washington D.C. a few weeks ago to negotiate the judicial reform project. The package, however, will be up for approval by the World Bank board within the month.

"The loan will be used for institutional building, for training our judges on new developments in handling cases, for computerization," Amatong said.

She noted that judicial reform, which was the beneficiary of earlier technical assistance grants from the World Bank, was needed to allow this branch of government cope with continuing changes in the socio-political environment.

Amatong said that while the government would be the borrower, the executing agency would be the Supreme Court.

In preparing a judicial reform project in the Philippines, the bank and the Philippine judiciary collaborated on a baseline study of court performance. A sample of case files from trial and appellate courts and the SC were analyzed to determine caseload mix, disposition times, outcomes and causes of delay.

The SC itself took the lead in seeking reforms in the judicial system after the issuance of the Davide Watch in 1998 and the Action Program for Judicial Reform in 2000.

The project seeks to strengthen the capacity of the SC to administer the judiciary, improve case adjudication and access to justice, enhance the integrity infrastructure of the judiciary, and support reform outreach activities, knowledge-sharing and the program management office.

Previous studies commissioned by the World Bank cited the following concerns on the Philippine judiciary:

- Widespread delay in the delivery of justice and limitations on access. The other courts continue to receive more cases than they decide, resulting in an increasing backlog of cases;
- Perceptions of corruption in the judiciary. Successive surveys indicate that a significant percentage of Filipinos think that "some" or "quite a few" judges accept bribes.;
- Court technologies and facilities are deficient.

'Securitization' to release tobacco shares

CANDON CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has approved the monetization of the remaining P2-billion tobacco fund to Ilocos farmers.

The fund, taken from 15 percent of the excise tax from the sale of Virginia tobacco, was the balance for the tobacco excise tax shares for 2001 and 2002, Ms Macapagal said here on Saturday.

Ilocos Sur Rep. Eric Singson said Malacanang would issue guidelines for the monetization next month.

"We are pleased that President Macapagal-Arroyo finally approved of our (proposed) scheme," Singson said.

Under the scheme, the Land Bank of the Philippines will assume the government's role of releasing the Virginia tobacco excise fund.

Singson said the concerned local governments should pass a resolution asking the Department of Budget and Management to monetize their share from the Republic Act No. 7171 funds.

"For example, a municipality would have to endorse a particular project to the DBM before the agency can approve the release of the fund for that project," Singson said.

Ilocos Sur, which produces almost 60 percent of Virginia tobacco in the country, is entitled to a P900-million share from the fund.

The other provinces producing Virginia tobacco are Ilocos Norte, La Union and Abra. Cagayan also produces a small batch of Virginia tobacco.

Ms Macapagal also approved the release this week of P104 million from the RA 7171 fund for tobacco farmers in Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union and Abra. *Frank Cimatu and Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI N. Luzon Bureau*

Mr. Bearbull . . .

From page B22

to use bar charts. They give you the open, close, high and low, and are far more informative.

Bar charts can easily be converted into candlestick, which originated in Japan around 1880, and are extremely popular with chartists worldwide because they are aesthetically appealing, especially in color. If the INQUIRER can print them in red and blue, they will really be eye-catching, but even in black and white, they convey information which can be very useful.

Unfortunately, candlesticks give too many reversals, many of them useless and costly, so it is essential to combine them with an indicator. In combination, these are known as filtered candlesticks because you filter out most of the signals that take place in the neutral zone between 20 and 80. If you find a hammer at the bottom of a downtrend and below 20, it has a high degree of accuracy and is almost certain to be profitable. Conversely, a hangman, gravestone doji or bearish engulfing pattern when the indicator is above 80, would be an excellent SELL signal. It would take me several articles to cover all the different patterns and you can get all this information from the Internet.

Lastly, there are Point and Figure charts. They give the same information but if you do not have a computer, they are far easier to draw, being a vertical series of zeroes and crosses. You only need a pencil. They are not so nice to look at but much easier to understand and construct, any 6th grader can do it. Because it takes so little time to plot them, this is my preferred way of manual charting and I can update 50 charts in less than 10 minutes, and analyze them at the same time.

Again, it would take several articles to explain the numerous patterns in detail and you can get them from the Internet. Usually, Point and Figure charts stand alone but there is no reason why they should not be combined with an overbought/oversold indicator. It acts as a filter and saves getting whipsawed.

KAGI is a simplified version of the above, and if done by computer, you simply buy when it turns blue and SELL when it turns red. You do not have to understand it because it works automatically. It is very simple to draw by hand but you MUST learn when to change the color of your pen. Whether you do it by computer or by hand, use fluctuations, not percentages.

There is one big problem with KAGI and that is determining the number of fluctuations or box sizes for each stock before you reverse the trend. For example, if you were plotting BPC is extremely volatile, having risen from 0.08 to 0.53 this year, an increase of more than 500 percent, SMCB has barely moved, having been stuck in a range of P65, plus or minus P3. Clearly, they have to be treated differently and the criterion that decides, is the stock's volatility. This applies to Point and Figure charts as well. I am afraid that there is no easy path to making money, only hard work and analysis.

Next week, if there is still significant interest, I will write about the various indicators you can use. Any indicator can be used with any kind of chart. Everything is interchangeable because, in the end, they are all derived from the same data. It is possible to get the computer to do the analysis and give the same data. It is possible to get the computer to do the analysis and give the signals though it tends to lag a day or two behind me. The computer lacks my background knowledge, e.g. the forthcoming FED meeting and the window dressing, but it does not suffer from high blood pressure, which caused me to miss the last rally.

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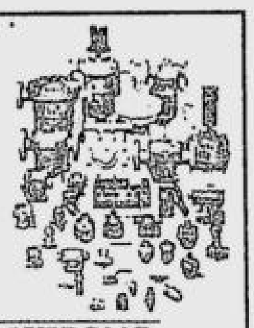

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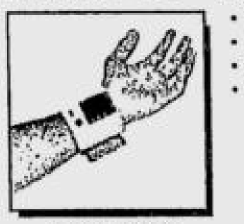

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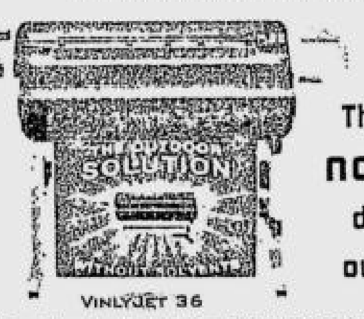

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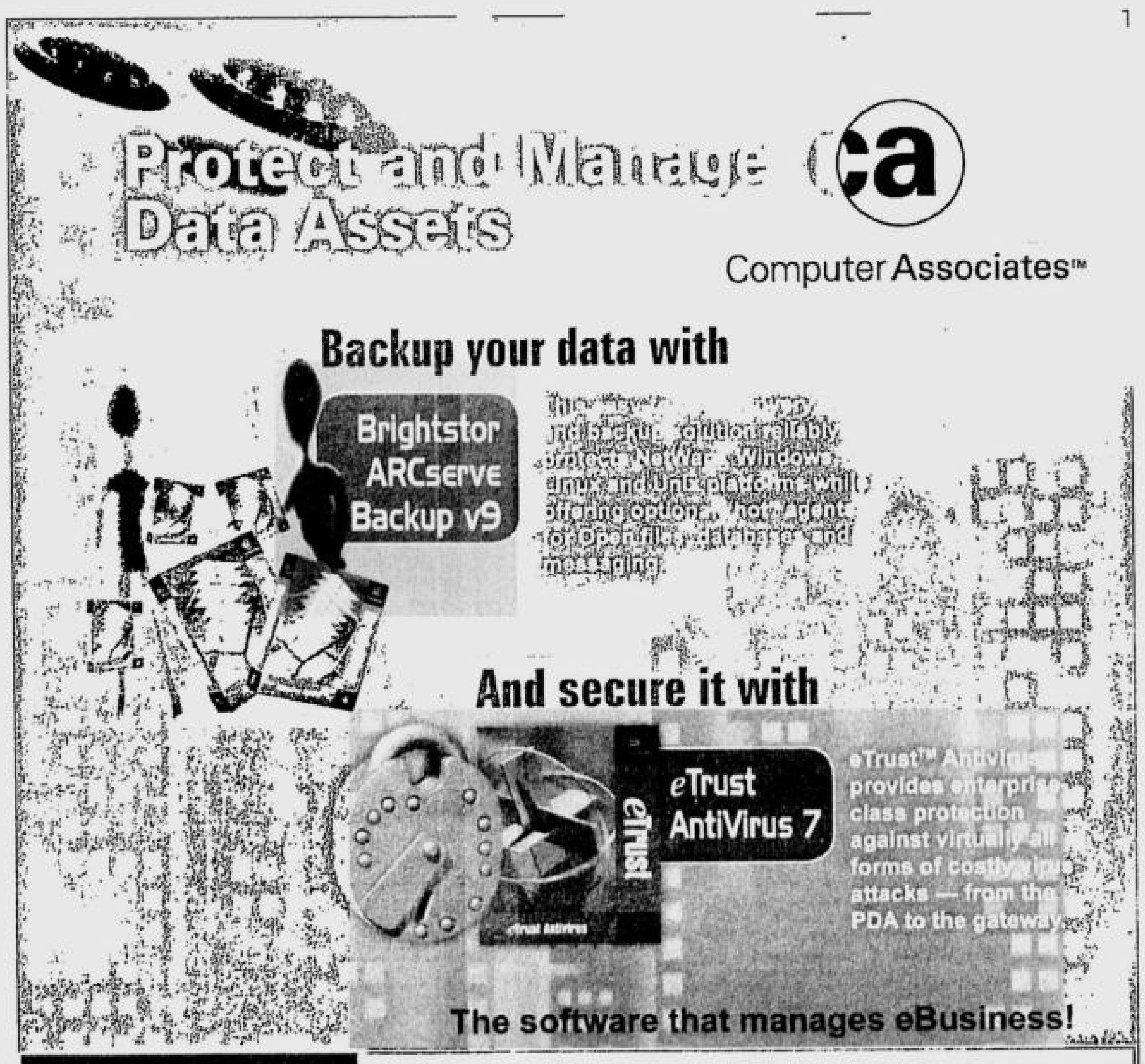

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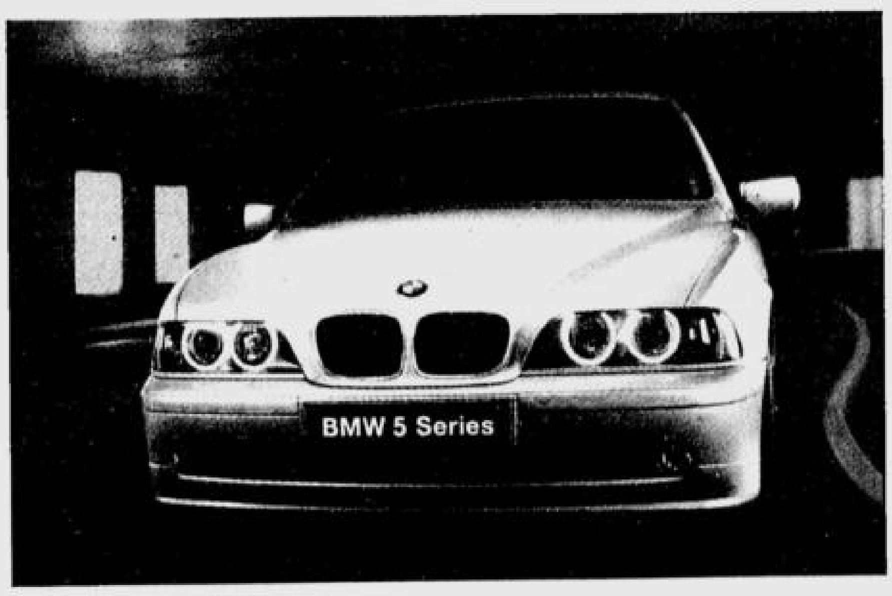

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Mommy Academy presents 'Elementary Parenting'

PARENTS always desire the best for their children. Thus, one of their foremost concerns is to be able to provide the kids a decent education.

In doing this, parents have to assume a critical role in encouraging their children's success in school and helping them cope up with this new environment away from home. Through Mommy Academy's 9th Pedia Talk Live seminar entitled "Elementary Parenting" which was held recently at the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati, some 600 mothers, fathers, teachers and parenting advocates were enlightened to help their brood develop a highly positive attitude towards school and learning.

Professor Mayda Alvarez, a veteran family life and child specialist from the University of the Philippines delivered a very informative lecture on how parents can encourage their kids to love school and learning.

On the other hand, Dr. Ria de Guzman, a developmental pediatrician from FEU-NRMF Hospital presented a dissertation on different learning disabilities and how to cope with them.

Dr. May-Book Montellano, a pediatrician from FEU-NRMF answered parents' inquiries about primary immunization of kids.

Mommy Academy is now on its 4th year having been launched in Feb. 21, by the husband and wife team of Dr. Rico Geronimo and Tesa Valmonte Geronimo. It airs every Saturday from 11:00 to 11:30 a.m. on ABC 5 with Chiqui Roa-Puno as host. The shows segments are Pedia Talk, What a Kid, Milestones and Activities, and Moms in Action.

Mommy Academy, which is under G.G Productions of "Ka Gerry Geronimo", is a proud member of the Moms Team (Moms Toward Educated and Active Motherhood). It is composed of entrepreneur mothers namely: Vicky Jalandoni and Joanna Ongpin-Duarte of Big & Small Co., Havin A Baby, Spin and Orange Juice; Janice Crisostomo and Candy Cu of Mommy Matters Nursingwear and Pia Cayetano of Maxibear and Maxitoylab.

Pedia Talk Live is held in cooperation with Reformulated Dimetapp and the Moms Team along with Pfizer Loving Care, Kumon Phils, Wilkins Distilled Drinking Water, Ponkana, Lysol, Campbells, Gerber, Aventis Pasteur, Kiddieparty.com, Prima Little School, Moms and Babies Magazine, Health Today, 105.1 Crossover, Wave 89.1, Magic 89.9, Citylite 88.3 and Joey's @ 92.3.

Because of its unprecedented success, Mommy Academy is now getting ready for its 10th Pedia Talk Live Seminar entitled "Food Habits", with motivating topics on "Obesity and Underweight", "Handling Picky Eaters" and the "Right Way to Eat for Two" on Aug. 2, Saturday, at The New World Hotel. Admission is free but interested parties should call telephone numbers 825-6564, 825-7454, 852-6162, 894-4172 and 780-9898 for pre-registration.

ROTARY
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FriendlyCare

AGREEMENT SIGNED TO PROMOTE FAMILY PLANNING IN CEBU

FriendlyCare Foundation, Nagpakabana Foundation, and the Rotary Club of Cebu recently signed a memorandum of cooperation to promote family planning in Cebu City. In particular, Nagpakabana Foundation will collaborate with FriendlyCare on the promotion and delivery of voluntary surgical contraception. The Rotary Club and FriendlyCare will work on the promotion of population and development issues. Witnessed by members of the three organizations, the contract was signed by (seated, from left): Connie Gandionco, incoming president Rotary Club Cebu-Guadalupe; Dr. Saleshe Baking, Nagpakabana Foundation president; Dr. Alberto Romualdez Jr., former DOH secretary and current FriendlyCare president and CEO; Dr. Gumer Ybañez, president, Rotary Club Cebu-Midtown; Minerva Abay-abay, Rotary Club Cebu Consolacion; and Babie Odjinar, president, Rotary Club Cebu-San Nicolas.

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BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
For Locally Funded Projects

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Department of Transportation and Communications (DOTC), through its Bid and Award Committee (BAC) for Locally Funded Project, invites contractor registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the following projects:

	Name of Projects/Location	YEAR	ABC
	Package 1 – Airports		
1	Loakan Airport, Baguio City - Improvement of Access Road (Concreting)	2003 GAA	1,840,000.00
2	Bagabag Airport, Nueva Vizcaya - Concrete Paving of Runway	2003 GAA	1,883,862.22
3	Bagabag Airport, Nueva Vizcaya - Improvement of Terminal Building	2003 GAA	349,078.58
4	Cauayan Airport, Nueva Vizcaya - Repair/Rehab of Fire Station Bldg	2003 GAA	371,263.28
5	Puerto Princesa Airport, Palawan - Construction of Perimeter Fence	2003 GAA	920,000.00
6	Calapan Airport, Oriental Mindoro - Construction of Perimeter Fence	2003 GAA	920,000.00
7	Virac Airport, Catanduanes - Obstruction Removal	2003 GAA	920,000.00
8	San Antonio Airport, Northern Samar - Construction of Runway/Airstrip	2002 & 2003 GAA	4,450,000.00
9	Ormoc Airport, Leyte - Construction of Perimeter Fence	2003 GAA	1,540,000.00
10	Ormoc Airport, Leyte - Asphalt Overlay of Runway	1998 CI	5,002,916.71
11	Iloilo Airport, Mandurriao, Iloilo City - Asphalt Overlay of Runway	2002 CI 2003 GAA	7,230,735.08
12	Kalibo Airport, Aklan - Expansion of VPA and Drainage System	2003 GAA	920,000.00
13	Roxas Airport, Roxas City - Shoulder Grade Correction & Perimeter Fence	2003,GAA	1,540,000.00
14	Caticlan Airport, Aklan - Const of Access Road and Drainage System	2002 & 2003 GAA	1,564,000.00
15	Dumaguete Airport, Dumaguete City - Construction of Perimeter Fence	2003 GAA	920,000.00
16	Zamboanga Airport, Zamboanga City - Resurfacing of Runway	2003 GAA	1,840,000.00
17	Cag. de Oro Airport, Lumbia, Cag. De Oro City - Expansion of Fire Station Building	2003 GAA	816,000.00
18	Camiguin Airport, Mambajao, Camiguin - Const. of Security Fence and Site Devt.	2002 & 2003 GAA	1,884,881.04
19	Iligan Airport, Balo-I, Lanao del Norte - Widening of Runway	2003 GAA	920,000.00
20	Bislig Airport, Bislig Surigao del Sur - Construction of Elevated Water Tank	2001 GAA	587,934.89
21	Surigao Airport, Surigao City - Construction of Elevated Water Tank	2003 GAA	460,000.00
22	Jolo Airport, Sulu - Obstruction Removal	2002 & 2003 GAA	5,059,891.31
			41,540,683.11
	Package 2 – Municipal Ports		
1	Busuanga Port, Coron, Palaitan, Palawan - Construction/Repair of Port	2002 CI	1,140,000.00
2	Coron Port, Palawan - Construction/Repair of Port	2002 CI	760,000.00
3	Dumaran Port, Palawan - Rehab/Expansion of Port	2002 CI	475,000.00
4	Linapacan Port, Palawan - Improvement of Port	2002 CI	2,850,000.00
5	Roxas Port, Palawan - Construction of Repair of Port	2002 CI	950,000.00
6	Tingloy Port, Batangas - Rehabilitation of Port	2002 CI	950,000.00
7	Sto. Domingo Port, Albay - Construction of Seawall	2003	920,000.00
8	Himamaylan Port, Negros Occidental - Rehabilitation of Port	2002 CI	1,840,000.00
9	Bien Unido Port, Bien Unido, Bohol - Improvement of Puerto San Pedro Port	2002 CI & 2003 GAA	1,840,000.00
10	Sindangan Port, Sindangan Zamb. Del Norte - Construction of Access Road Leading to Port	2003 GAA	1,840,000.00
			13,565,000.00

Note: Lists of Minimum Equipment Requirements per project are indicated in the eligibility forms.

Prospective contractors may participate in the bidding for more than one project per package, provided they met the required IAC Registration, e.g., Ports, Harbor and Offshore Engineering, Roads, Airports and Horizontal Structure, and Building and Industrial Plant; whichever is applicable, based on the total ABC they intend to bid. The minimum experience requirement should be at least 50% of the total project costs undertaken within the last three (3) years.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Screening, Bid Bond, Performance Bond, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification of the lowest calculated bid and Award of Contract shall be governed by Republic Act 9184 and pertinent provisions of the Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR) of E.O. 40.

The Eligibility Screening Form will be available to interested bidders on June 26-July 2, 2003, during the office hours (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) at Unit 55, 5th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, upon submission of letter of intent indicating the list of project/s intended to bid, copy of updated PCAB/IAC License, and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P500.00 to the DOTC Cashier. Interested bidders shall submit their duly accomplished Eligibility Screening Form and attachments to the same Office, not later than 5:00 p.m. of July 07, 2003. The results of the eligibility screening will be available in the same office on July 28, 2003.

Bid/Tender Documents will be available to eligible bidders for issuance on July 28-August 01, 2003 (8:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.) at Unit 55, 5th Floor, The Columbia Tower, Ortigas Avenue, Mandaluyong City, upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 per project to the DOTC Cashier.

The DOTC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive minor defect and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

The DOTC assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

(Sgd.) RENE E. MAGLANQUE
Assistant Secretary for Finance and Comptrollership
Chairman, Bid and Award Committee (BAC)

(PDI – June 24 & July 1, 2003)

Bits Clips

5th Int'l Food and Beverage Expo

THE FOOD and beverage industry is one of the most consistent and constantly growing industries in the country. This is why the upcoming 5th International Food and Beverage Expo 2003 (Ifbe), promises to be this years biggest event not only in the F&B industry, but among prospective entrepreneurs. To be held from June 25 to 28 at the World Trade Center Metro Manila (WTCMM) in Pasay City, the show will be attended by more than 200 foreign and local exhibitors.

ECCP sponsors Ifbe 2003

MORE than 200 local and foreign food and beverage exhibitors are expected to show their best food, drink and processed food products and equipment in the 5th Int'l Food and Beverage Expo (Ifbe) 2003 slated to run from June 25 to 28 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. The food expo is jointly organized by Time Foundation, the corporate foundation of the Philippine Society of Mechanical Engineers, and Fairs & More Inc., the events management subsidiary of the European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines (ECCP). The first two days of the event is for trade visitors while the last two days are open to the public. Further details on the event can be obtained at tel. nos. 845-1324 or 759-6680 or visit the the event website at www.foodandbeverageexpo.com

Purefoods and DLSU-Shrim join hands with 5th Ifbe

INDUSTRY giant San Miguel Purefoods and the School of Hotel Restaurant and Institution Management (Shrim) of DLSU-CSB have decided to hold the Young Hoteliers Exposition during the 5th International Food and Beverage Expo on June 25 to 28 at the World Trade Center, Pasay City. DLSU-CSB-Shrim students will be holding various competitions using Purefoods products during the 4-day exposition. For inquiries, call 687-0654 / 687-2955, website www.foodandbeverageexpo.com.

San Miguel Beer at 5th Ifbe

FOR THE 5th year now, San Miguel Beer will co-present the International Food and Beverage Expo scheduled on June 25 to 28 at the World Trade Center. San Miguel Beer will be hosting the "Happy Hour" promo during the four-day event. For info about the event, call 687-0654/845-1324 or visit www.foodandbeverageexpo.com.

PAL backs UP golf tourney

PHILIPPINE Airlines is the major backer of this year's Chancellor's Golf Cup, an annual event organized by the alumni of the University of the Philippines Manila College of Arts and Sciences to strengthen bonds among themselves. The tournament will be held at the Villamor Golf Club in Pasay City today.

SMART SUBS WIN P1M EACH IN BUY N TEXT PROMO

Subscribers of Smart Communications Inc. who won P1 million each in Buy N Text's raffle promo pose with Smart officials Marlon Mendoza (second from left) and Ramon Isberto (fourth from left) and BNT chief operating officer Arthur Policarpio (second from right) during the BNT Millionaires Night at Dish in Rockwell, Makati. Initially available to Smart Subscribers, Buy N Text, the country's first large-scale text-based raffle promo has produced more than 10 millionaires since it was launched in February this year. Consumers who purchased goods from participating companies simply had to text the raffle number attached to the products to access code 399. Participating companies include Caffe Flores, CPR Marketing and Promotions Inc., David's Salon, Golden Oats Corp., Heinz-UFC Corp., Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc., Procter & Gamble Philippines, Purefoods-Hormel Corp., and Southeast Asia Foods Inc. The promo rode on the enormous popularity of text messaging and made convenient the submission of raffle entries.

ROL wins 2003 'Tuklasan Series of the Year'

THE REACHING Out for the Lord (ROL) Series of the Tuklasan Sector, Marriage Encounter (ME) Foundation of the Phils. (MEFP), was adjudged the "Overall Winner" in the first Tuklasan ME Recognition Awards - 2003 on the occasion of the 22nd Tuklasan Foundation Day last June 1 at the Christ the King Parish Formation Center, Green Meadows, Quezon City.

ROL also won as "Best in Newsletter", "Best in Publicity" and "Best in Organization".

In the other categories, the Divine Healer Series won as "Best in Plans and Programs" and "Best in Service"; the AZ Pagkakaisa Series won as "Best in Active Sectoral Participation" and "Best in Reunions"; the Holy Redeemer Series won as "Best in Spirituality" and the Risen Christ Series won as "Best in Membership".

The Tuklasan ME Recognition Awards has for its objectives the establishment of excellent benchmarks or standards in the Tuklasan Sector, find and adopt the best practices and improve on the management of the various Tuklasan Series.

This year's judges include: Ric-Phine Tolentino, Boy-Belle Aranas, Videl-Lot Lamanilao, Gas-Olive Gaac and Boy-Zaida Villarosa; with Tuklasan Foundation chair Rev. Fr. Jess Fernandez, S.J. as honorary chair.

The Tuklasan Sector is the largest ME sector in the MEFP with some 27 series under its fold.

Currently led by Jones-Dette Campos, the ROL Series is on its 9th year having been founded on Sept. 24, 1994. ROL now has conducted some 17 ME classes with more than 200 member-couples, including priests and nuns, in its roster. It also conducts one-day marriage enrichment seminars, parenting seminars and recollections. ROL envisions to put up a ME House in Baguio or Tagaytay. It believes in re-uniting and rejuvenating relationships by conducting relationship-enhancing seminars and activities - putting the Lord in the center of all things - with the end in view of strengthening the state of the Filipino family.

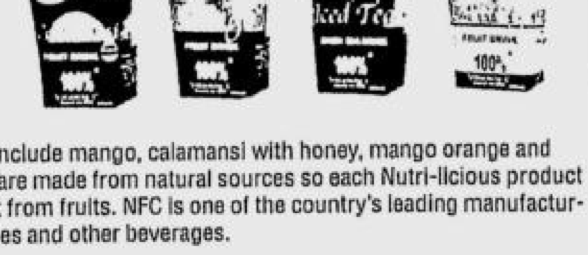
Among the ROL officers, trustees and members who were in attendance at the awarding ceremony include: Joe-Janet Saldaña, Freddie-Rachel de Leon, Willie-Elba Obando, Gerry-Gina Martinez, Rick-Connie Lacsamana, Ricky-Marissa Manalo, Jess-Len Cabasal, Robert-Tinette Aventajado, Bobby-Evelyn Lozano, Gerry-Mona Gaw, Troy-Vina Inciong, Bobby-Cien Barbiran, Dick-Rose Valenzona and Romy-Grace Velasco.

SUB-STRUCTURE OF PENHURST PARKPLACE COMPLETED

The working technical group behind the country's first condominium project under the Direct Cost Build to Own (BTO) system recently marked the safe and prompt completion of substructure works in a simple ceremony at the job site in Fort Bonifacio Global City. Photo shows representatives of the technical group during the ceremonies. From left: architects Kenneth Uy and Daniel Terence Yu, special projects division head and executive assistant to the president respectively of G&W, overall project managers; Paul Chaston, partner and regional development manager - North East Asia representing EC Harris Philippines, construction managers; engineers Ramon Gabaldon and Manny Sy, vice president and president respectively of New Golden City Builders, contractor.

Product FILES

Nutri-licious drinks now in tetra wedge pack



NUTRI-LICIOUS Foods Corporation (NFC) launches Nutri-licious drinks in tetra wedge pack. The new packaging guarantees the products to be nutritious and delicious. The move is in line with NFC's "Can Nutritious be Delicious? Yes, Nutri-licious!" campaign. These products have 100 percent vitamin C based on Recommended Dietary Allowance and have no preservatives added. It comes in 200 ml pack and different flavors that include mango, calamansi with honey, mango orange and iced tea lemon. Nutri-licious products are made from natural sources so each Nutri-licious product has the vitamins and minerals inherent from fruits. NFC is one of the country's leading manufacturers and exporters of premium fruit juices and other beverages.

Oakley Monster Dog

ANOTHER innovation in eyewear technology, Oakley Monster Dog's specifications are: lightweight stress resistant O Matter frame material; extended wrapped frame geometry to fit medium to large faces; sculpturally integrated hinge mechanisms; true metal icon accents; Plutonite lens material to block 100 percent of all UVA, IVB, UVC and harmful blue light; prescription ready.

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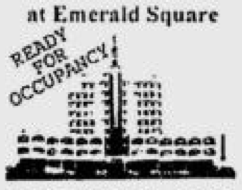

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INVITATION FOR BIDS

For Contract No. ADB/OAS-2003/034

1. The Asian Development Bank (ADB), a multilateral development finance institution headquartered in Manila, Philippines, wishes to receive bids from qualified bidders for the provision of Horizontal Cabling Replacement Project at the ADB Headquarters Office.

2. The Contractor shall provide ADB with the most reliable and efficient migration strategy, decommissioning of STP cables and installation, testing, commissioning of new cables and final cut over including the deployment of fully trained personnel, transportation, equipment and supervision in accordance with the policies, standards and procedures established by ADB.

3. The successful bidder will be contracted for a period of **16 months** from the commencement date of the contract, extendible subject to mutual consent.

4. To be qualified for the bidding, the bidder MUST.
   - I. Have independent legal existence as a validly registered company, or a joint venture partnership (under joint and several liability), with at least five (5) years and above experience in Structured Cabling System business particularly in migration of existing cabling to new infrastructure, and other related services.
   - II. Have basic financial requirement with assets not less than US$1.5 million or with acceptable financial support (bidders to provide documentation of proof partnership).
   - III. Have Global and/or Regional Partners that will provide financial and resource assistance for this project.
   - IV. Have past experience in similar migration project with an equivalent of 3,000 nodes required, but preferably close to 10,000 nodes.
   - V. Have experience in installing and commissioning Category 6 Structured Cabling System with at least five reference sites.
   - VI. Be a certified installer for the various product(s) proposed for the installation
   - VII. Provide details, quantity and type of Owned cable testing equipment and tools for cable installation
   - VIII. Have membership to BiCSi/BiCSP and preferably with RCDD Engineer;

     (**BICSI**: Building Industry Consulting Service International/**BICSP**: Building Industry Consulting Service Philippines/**RCDD**: Registered Communications Distribution Designer);

5. Bid documents and the corresponding instructions may be obtained from the office of the Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services, Room 4221N, at the above address, **from 26 June to 2 July 2003** on any working day (8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.).

6. Two copies (marked "ORIGINAL" AND "COPY") of the bid should be submitted each in a sealed envelope marked "**Provision of ADB Horizontal Cabling Replacement Project, Contract No. ADB/OAS-2003/034**" addressed to "**Head, Contracts Section, General Services Division, Office of Administrative Services,**" and should reach ADB not later than 10:00 a.m. on 17 July 2003.

7. This invitation does not entail any commitment on the part of the ADB, either financial or otherwise. Any cost of preparation of bid shall be borne solely by the bidder.

Chairman
Procurement Committee for Services
Office of Administrative Services

(PDI – June 24 & 25, 2003)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Mktg Person'l 09192535623 Glenda

WANTED: ACCOUNTING STAFF PLS. CALL 852-6195 Look for Perla

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given of the loss of Sta. Elena Golf Club Inc. Share#M018B & Canlubang Golf & Country Club Inc. Share#1762 in the name of EDMUNDO T. ONGSIAKO. If no one contest one year from date of publication a new cert. will be issued.
(PDI- June 24, July 1 & 8, 2003)

SUPPLEMENTAL TO EXTRAJUDICIAL SETTLEMENT OF ESTATE OF THE LATE RIZALINA T CRUZ AMONG HEIRS AS PER DOCUMENT NOTARIZED BY FRANCISCO A CARANDANG JR AS DOC NO. 29; PAGE NO.07; BOOK NO. 01; SERIES OF 2003
PDI-JUNE 10, 17 & 24, 2003

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Palawan
Municipality of Taytay
OFFICE OF THE MUNICIPAL MAYOR

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

The Municipality of Taytay, Province of Palawan invites all interested contractors, Category "Medium Sub-Class B" to pre-qualify and to bid for the Construction of Public Market two-storey building with dimension of 20.00 m. x 31.75 m., having a ground floor area of 634 sq.m. and second floor area of 634 sq.m.

Approved Budget for the contract to be bid is **P16,000,000.00.**

Application for pre-qualification shall be evaluated using "PASS/FAIL" criteria and only qualified bidders shall be invited in the bidding. All bids equal to or lower than the Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid shall be evaluated based on the responsiveness of the contractor's offer. Bid Prices submitted higher than the Approved Budget for the contract to be Bid shall be rejected and returned outright.

Interested Contractors shall submit pre-qualification documents to the MPBAC Secretariat on or before 3:00 p.m. of July 1, 2003.

Pre-bid conference will be on July 9, 2003 at 10 o'clock AM at the Office of the Municipal Mayor. Submission and opening of bids will be announced thereafter.

Bidding Documents can be secured from MPBAC Secretariat/Planning and Engineering Office upon payment of non-refundable fee of Php5,000.00.

The municipality reserves the right to reject any application for Pre-qualification of all bids or request for registration without offering any reasons, waive minor informality in the bids required, and to award the contract to the bidder whose proposal, as evaluated by MPBAC, is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ROBERTO V. RODRIGUEZ
Municipal Mayor

(PDI–June 19, 24 & 27, 2003)

NO JOBS IN IRAQ YET

Call POEA at 722-1144 or 722-1155

AVOID ILLEGAL RECRUITMENT

Call POEA at 722-1144 or 722-1155

NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
NPC-MMSD 2003-001

The Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)-MMSD of NPC invites interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirements.

Schedule	Date/Time & Place of Bidding		Item Description	P.R. No.	ABC
I 1 lot	July 11, 2003 10:00 AM Pahiyas Rm.	a)	Cylinder Liner Assy., Piston Ring Set and 18 various parts for the overhauling of Marinawa DPP Unit No. 6, "GM"	SL-MCD03-0011	2,169,600.00
		b)	Multifunction Overcurrent Relay	VR-MES03-0026	1,200,000.00
II 1 lot	July 16, 2003 10:00 AM Pahiyas Rm.	a)	Injector Assy, S/P and various Electrical parts for Power Barge 109,560 KW Genset & Pilar 5 Diesel Power Plant "Dale Perkins"	HO-PB903-0007 HO-BI103-0006 HO-SAN03-0004 HO-PLP03-0007	6,406,486.00
III 1 lot	July 18, 2003 10:00 AM Sinulog Rm.		Mechanical Parts of of 3 x 1.8 MW Genset Pumps, Coolers, and Filters of Jolo DPP; Bolt Cylinder Head & various Electrical S/P for GDK 32 "Daihatsu"	HO-JOL02-0080 HO-PB03-0021	10,967,705.00
IV 1 lot	July 23, 2003 10.00 AM Moriones Rm.		Electrical Parts for Camotes DPP, and Bantayan "MAN"	HO-CAM03-0072 HO-BBD03-0046 HO-BBN03-0049 HO-BBD03-0041	3,005,300.00
V 1 lot	July 25, 2003 10:00 AM Moriones Rm.		Mechanical Parts for Tablas Diesel Power Plant, Camotes and Bantayan "MAN"	SL-TAM03-0068 SL-TAM03-0062, 0063, 0065, 0067 HO-CAM03-0073 HO-BB003, 0042 0053	14,411,747.00
VI 1 lot	July 30, 2003 10:00 AM Moriones Rm.		Operation and Maintenance of NPC Tugboat No. 1 for one year	HO-OVD03-0016	6,500,000.00

Note: A Pre-bidding Conference will be held for the following bidding schedules:

Schedule	Date	Time	Place
I	June 27, 2003	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	IPP Conference Rm., Ground Flr. Bldg. 2 IPP Conference Rm., Ground Flr. Bldg. 2
II	June 27, 2003	2:00 PM	IPP Conference Rm., Ground Flr. Bldg. 2
III	July 01, 2003	10:00 AM	Moriones Function Room
IV	July 01, 2003	2:00 PM	Moriones Function Room
V	July 2, 2003	10:00 PM	Kañao Function Room
VI	July 2, 2003	2:00 PM	Kañao Function Room

Complete sets of Application form for Eligibility and Bid Documents may be obtained from the Materials Management Services Division, Materials Management Dept., of NPC, Diliman, Quezon City with Tel. No. 9245357 / 9245477 upon payment of non-refundable fee of PHP100.00 per schedule starting on June 16, 2003. No bid documents will be issued 3 days before the date of bidding.

Bids will be received at the assigned Bidding Room, MMSD, MMD, NPC Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time specified above after which Eligibility Requirements and Bid Proposals will be opened in the presence of attending biddes. Certificate of Registrations issued by Former Genco Offices will be honored provided that the Certification is still valid.

Prospective Bidders shall signify conformance to bidding terms and conditions as required and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution in accordance with the IRR of "Executive Order No. 40".

The Bidder shall furnish as part of his/her bid, a bid security in the amount equivalent to a percentage of the approved budget for the contract to be bid in the form of Cash, Manager's/Cashier's Check, Surety Bond – Two and a half percent (2.5%), penal and callable on demand issued by a Surety or Insurance Company accredited by the Office of the Insurance Commission.

NPC reserves the right to reject any or all bids at any time prior to award of contract, waive any defects therein, and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation, without thereby incurring any of the following: a) liability whatsoever to offset expenses or losses the bidder may incur in the preparation of the bids and b) obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the grounds for the basis of the BAC's action.

(Sgd.) LORENZO S. MARCELO
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
MMSD-NPC

(PDI - June 17 & 24, 2003)

Republic of the Philippines
REGIONAL TRIAL COURT OF MISAMIS ORIENTAL
SPECIAL DRUGS AND COMMERCIAL COURT
10th Judicial Region
BRANCH 40
Cagayan de Oro City

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE DECLARATION OF STATE OF SUSPENSION OF PAYMENTS, WITH AN APPROVAL OF PROPOSED REHABILITATION PLAN,

SPEC. PROC. NO. 2003-057

RC NARC CORPORATION,
Petitioner
x- - - - - - - - - - - - - - - - x

STAY ORDER

Before this court is a Petition for Declaration of Suspension of Payments with approval of Rehabilitation Plan filed by petitioner RC NARC Corporation, with principal offices at 168 Clementino Chavez St., Cagayan de Oro City.

Finding the petition to be sufficient in form and substance, the court hereby issues this Stay Order pursuant to Section 6, Rule 4, Interim Rules of Procedure on Corporate Rehabilitation requiring compliance with the following terms and conditions, to wit:

a) ATTY. GIL U. BANAAG, is hereby appointed as REHABILITATION RECEIVER of the petitioner and his bond is fixed at ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND (P100,000.00);
b) Staying enforcement of all claims, whether for money or otherwise and whether such enforcement is by the court action or otherwise, against the debtor, its guarantors and sureties not solidarily liable with the debtor;
c) Prohibiting the debtor from selling, encumbering, transferring or disposing in any manner any of its properties except in the ordinary course of business;
d) Prohibiting the debtor from making any payment of its liabilities outstanding as of the date of filing of the petition;
e) Prohibiting the debtor's suppliers of goods or services from withholding supply of goods and services in the ordinary course of business for as long as the debtor makes payments for the services and goods supplied after the issuance of this stay order;
f) Directing the payment in full of all administrative expenses incurred after the issuance of this stay order;
g) Directing all creditors and all interested parties (including the Securities and Exchange Commission) to file and serve on the debtor a verified comment on or opposition t[illegible] he petition, (10) days before the date of the initial [illegible]aring and putting them on notice that their failure to do so will bar them from participating in the proceedings; and
h) Directing the creditors and interested parties to secure from the court copies of the petition and its annexes within such time as to enable themselves to file their comment on or opposition to the petition and to prepare for the initial hearing of the petition.

Pursuant to Section 7, Rule 4 of the aforesaid Interim Rules, the petitioner is hereby directed to immediately serve a copy of this Stay Order on the Rehabilitation Receiver appointed by this court, who shall manifest his acceptance or non-acceptance of his appointment not later than ten (10) days from receipt of this Order and put up his bond within the same period, as well as take his Oath of Office before this Court during the initial hearing of this petition.

The petitioner is likewise directed to publish this Stay Order in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines once a week for two (2) consecutive weeks before the scheduled initial hearing.

The initial hearing on the petition is hereby fixed on July 4, 2003 at 2:30 o' clock in the afternoon.

SO ORDERED

Cagayan de Oro City, May 14, 2003

(Sgd.) HON. EPIFANIO T. NACAYA, CESO V
Presiding Judge

(PDI – June 24 & July 1, 2003)

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on July 9, 2003, 2:00 p.m. at the Auditorium of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS.

CODE	LOCATION	DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM BID
REAL ESTATE			
MANILA			
AMD-ED-35	Bo. Dampalit, Malabon City	3 adjoining fishpond lots, total area of 59,973 m² (TCT Nos. M-25813, M-25814 & M-25815)	P 6,597,000.00
AMD-JB-36	No 428 Inocencio St., San Roque, Pasay City	2 adjoining residential lots, total area of 253.70 m² with 4-door 2-storey apartment	P 2,219,000.00
LEG-JG1	No 5-J Blk. 69, Diliman Quezon City	95.30 m² residential lot (TCT No. 218852) with bldg. & improvements	P 1,311,300.00
AMD-ED-37	INA Executive Homes I Lowtown Estate Subd., Don Bosco, Parañaque City	100 m² residential lot (TCT No. 144520) with bldg. & improvements	P 1,176,700.00
AMD-MR-38	1304 Int. M. Naval St., Navotas	338 m² residential/industrial lot (TCT No. C-300082) with factory bldg. & improvements	P 544,180.00
LEG-JG2	Moon St., Zabarte, Caloocan City	100 m² vacant residential lot (TCT No. 346198)	P 350,000.00
ALBAY			
LEG-CSD	Bagacay, Legaspi City	35.1762 has. & 3.6622 has. fishponds (TCT Nos. 23199 & 512, respectively) with imprvts.	P 6,763,200.00
BATANGAS			
LIP-LAO-02	Bgy. Luntal, Tuy	2 parcels of lots (TCT Nos. T-94455 & T-94456) total area of 9,312 m² with bldg. & imprvts	P 15,697,000.00
LIP-LAO-03	Bgy. Dagatan, Lipa	9,312 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. 132773)	P 7,915,200.00
BULACAN			
LRD-157a	Brgy. Maasim, San Rafael	2,026 m² residential/commercial lots (TCT Nos. T-167138, T-167144 & T-167145) with bldgs. & imprvts.	P 16,338,600.00
LRD-157b	Carlos St., San Jose, Baliuag	200 m² commercial lot (TCT No. T-167135) with bldgs. & imprvts.	P 2,386,700.00
LRD-157c	San Roque, Baliuag	4,064 m² agro-residential lot (TCT No. T-167136)	P 2,032,000.00
LRD-157d	Brgy. Maasim, San Rafael	1,224 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-167137)	P 2,001,000.00
LRD-157e	San Agustin, San Rafael	776 m² residential lot (TCT No. T-167140)	P 1,164,000.00
CSP-01	Bo. Palimbang, Calumpit	690 m² Int. residential lot (TCT No. T-162779) with factory/warehouse & office bldg.	P 2,050,000.00
CEBU			
CBU-01	Leased lot at Mactan Economic Zone, Lapulapu City	One (1) lot bldg. and imprvts. (1,205 m²), air separation/gas plant machinery and eqpt. office furnitures, 4-trucks/vans & 1-motorcycle	P 63,435,900.00
ILIGAN			
AMD-JB-39a	Mahayhay, Iligan City	1,612 m² interior lot (TCT No. T-57,198 a.f.) with residential and apartment bldgs. & imprvts.	P 4,689,600.00
AMD-JB-39b	Mahayhay, Iligan City	1,150 m² interior residential lot (TCT No. T-57,199 a.f.)	P 3,162,500.00
PAMPANGA			
AMD-MR-40a	Dolores Heights, Dolores San Fernando	402 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481055-R)	P 1,447,200.00
AMD-MR-40b		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481054-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40c		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481053-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40d		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481052-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40e		216 m² residential lot (TCT No. 481051-R)	P 777,600.00
AMD-MR-40f	Don Bonifacio Subd., Balibago, Angeles City	356 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114588)	P 142,400.00
AMD-MR-40g		356 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114589)	P 142,400.00
AMD-MR-40h		300 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114587)	P 120,000.00
AMD-MR-40i		300 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114590)	P 120,000.00
AMD-MR-40j		300 m² residential lot (TCT No. 114593)	P 120,000.00
RIZAL			
BAL-1	Bo. Colaigue, Antipolo City	1,236 m² residential lot (TCT No. R-3760)	P 6,798,000.00
BAL-2	Bo. Colaigue, Antipolo City	1,057 m² residential lot (TCT No. R-3761)	P 6,342,000.00
BAL-3	Bgy. Muzon, Angono	308 m² residential lot (TCT No. 663764)	P 1,540,000.00
SUR-01	605 6th St., San Martin Subd., Bo. Muzon, Angono	240 m² residential lot (TCT No. 660746) with bldg. & imprvts.	P 885,800.00
ZAMBALES			
AMD-JB-41	Bo. Lucapon, Sta. Cruz	6,639 m² vacant agro-residential lot (TCT No. T53665)	P 2,159,700.00
CHATTELS (sale on "as-is, where-is" basis)			
AMD-MR-41a	Ozamiz Manabay Cmpd., Bo. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	Coco oil mill, laundry soap & lard processing equipment	P 1,077,750.00
AMD-MR-41b	Ozamiz Manabay Cmpd. Bo. Maningcol, Ozamiz City	Various transportation, handling, shop maintenance & weighing equipment	P 4,410.00 to 218,700.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, 2nd Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers:
893-7172 or 818-9511 loc. 2218/2144/3404 for Code starting with AMD;
(052) 820-1348 or 818-9511 loc 1423 for LEG;
(043) 757-2465 or 818-9511 loc. 1429 for LIP;
(044) 662-1510/892-3836 or 818-9511 loc. 1409/2128 for LRD;
926-1686 or 818-9511 loc. 1411 for CSP;
(032) 255-6310 or 818-9511 loc. 1442 for CBU;
(047) 237-3589 or 818-9511 loc. 1434 for BAL; and
(086) 826-0289 or 818-9511 loc. 1488 for SUR.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI–June 23 & 24, 2003)

The ABCs of entrepreneurship

THE ENTREPRENEURS Society of the Philippines (ESP) and the Center for Small Entrepreneurs (CSE) will be hosting the ABCs of Entrepreneurship seminar on June 30, Monday at Senden Hall, Asian Social Institute, 1518 Leon Guinto corner Escoda Street, Malate, Manila. The seminar aims to explore the basics of entrepreneurship in a systematic way starting from discovering and developing the market needs, creating the tactics and strategies for the 4 Ps, financing the venture without difficulty, and managing effectively the start-up business. The registration fee is P500 inclusive of snacks and handout materials. A certificate of participation will be given to those who will attend the entire seminar. Call the Center for Small Entrepreneurs at 525-6268, 523-9776, e-mail cse@pacific.net.ph or Entrepreneurs Society of the Philippines at 726-5466, e-mail acephil@vasia.com.

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"WE SERVE"

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District is inviting interested well drilling contractors with PCAB License having a specialty in well drilling to submit their respective prequalification statements (PRE-C) for the drilling of various production wells at various places in Baguio City.

Interested contractors may obtain pre-qualification forms at a non-refundable fee of P1,000.00 from the PBAC-Secretariat, BWD Office, Utility Road, Baguio City.

Issuance of Pre-C Forms	June 30, 2003
Deadline of submission of Pre-C	July 4, 2003
Issuance of Bid Documents	July 21-23, 2003
Deadline for Submission of Bids	July 24, 2003
Opening of Bids	July 31, 2003

BWD reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in the bids received and accept bids most advantageous to the District.

BWD PBAC-Projects

(PDI - June 23, 24 & 25, 2003)

OBITUARIES

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

MAURICIO G. GAERLAN

who passed away on June 14, 2003

wish to express our sincere gratitude to all those who comforted us with their presence, sent flowers and spiritual offerings, kept vigil with us, attended the funeral rites and in immeasurable ways were just there for us when we needed it most.

Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

JUDGE HERMOGENES R. LIWAG

Who joined the Lord on June 16, 2003

Wish to convey our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to our relatives, friends and all those who sent condolences, flowers, donations, food, offered Masses and prayers, called from abroad, attended the funeral rites, joined us in burial rites, helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

In remembrance
of the 10th Death Anniversary of

Bienvenido Dumagat Cruz, Sr.

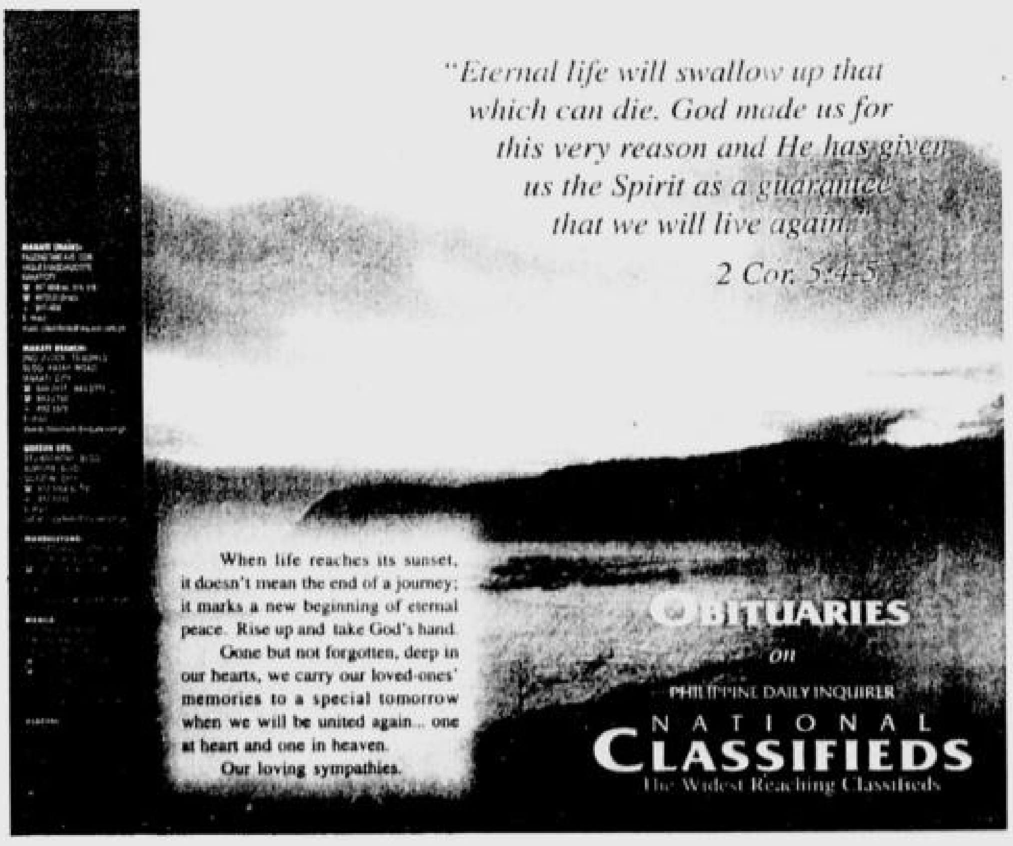
September 21, 1928 – June 24, 1993

Mass will be offered to the following:

- **Archdiocesan Shrine of St. Anne**
  Sta. Ana Taguig, M.M.
  6:00 a.m.
- **Mary The Queen Parish**
  Greenhills, San Juan
  6:00 a.m.
- **San Isidro Parish**
  Taft Avenue, Pasay City
  6:30 p.m.
- **Sanctuario de San Antonio**
  Forbes Park
  6:00 p.m.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

John 3:16



"Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again."

2 Cor. 5:4-5

When life reaches its sunset, it doesn't mean the end of a journey; it marks a new beginning of eternal peace. Rise up and take God's hand.

Gone but not forgotten, deep in our hearts, we carry our loved-ones' memories to a special tomorrow when we will be united again... one at heart and one in heaven.

Our loving sympathies.

DEATH NOTICES

Rev. Msgr. Jose V. Ferrer (H.P.)

Passed away on June 20, 2003
at the age of 82.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 26, 2003 at
Binmaley Catholic Cemetery
after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Ex-Mayor Agustin M. Valdevieso, Sr.

Died in the Grace of our Lord on June 19, 2003
at the age of 87.

Interment will be on Sunday,
June 29, 2003, 9:00 a.m.

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OBITUARIES

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(632) 845-2341 or (632) 845-2342
sales@heritagepark.com.ph

Four Years Ago Today

Our Beloved Mama

MARIA KOO TAN

Joined the Lord in Eternal Rest

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will be celebrated in her memory and that of our Papa, Salvador Tan Siong Chang, today at the following churches:

Catarman Cathedral Catarman, Northern Samar	5:30 AM
Christ, The King (Greenmeadows)	6:00 AM
Mt. Carmel	7:00 AM
St. Paul, The Apostle, Timog, Q.C.	7:00 AM
Chapel of the Eucharistic Lord Megamall	12:15 NN
Mary, The Queen (Greenhills)	6:00 PM
Sanctuario de San Jose (Greenhills)	6:15 PM
St. Francis Church (Mandaluyong)	6:30 PM

Thank you once again for your prayers and well wishes.

Edward, **Robert** and **Jenny**, **Ronnie** and **Marge**, **Renan** and **Iris**
Alex and **Milly**, **Stanley** and **Jen**, **Sandy** and **Steve**
Eddie and **Noah**, **Doy**, **Square** and **Candice**
Aida and **Albert (Simtoco)**, **Arvin** and **Malou**, **Archie** and **Aris**
Tommy and **Marge**, **Bernice**, **Adrian** and **Mellisa**
Eday and **Boy (Gustilo)** and **Gail**
Nonoy and **Grace**, **Trisha**, **Felicity**, **Valerie**, **Noynoy** and **Borgy**
and great grandchildren.

"Let the words of my mouth meet your Favor, keep the thoughts of my heart before you, Lord, my rock, my redeemer..."

— Psalm 21:15

In Memory

of the 26th Death Anniversary

of

DOÑA HERMINIA S. CONCEPCION

who died on June 24, 1977.

Her loving children, **JOSE JR.**, **RAUL**, **MELY** and **RENE**, grandchildren and great grandchildren have offered Masses at the following churches:

Santuario de San Antonio *McKinley Road* *Forbes Park, Makati City*	6:00 P.M.
St. Andrew Church *Constellation Street* *Bel-Air Village, Makati City*	6:30 P.M.
Sacred Heart Parish Church *Dau, San Antonio Village* *Makati City*	6:00 P.M.
Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal *Legaspi Street, Project 4* *Quezon City*	6:30 P.M.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring...

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:
❶ Copy of Death Certificate
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

Our Beloved

VIRGILIO M. TORRES

Managing Partner, V.M. Torres & Co.

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
On June 22, 2003 at the age of 69.

His loving wife, **Ma. Celia Leuterio,** and children by the late **Dolores "Lita" Rodriguez**; **Victoria & Manuel del Rosario, Van Jose & Arlene Teresa Torres, Virgilio, Jr. & Joanne Torres, Vivianne & Marlon Madera**; grandchildren, **Mia**; **Kayla, Carlo & Cizo**; **Vinz**; **Diego, Kenneth, Kristine, Kyle & Kim**; brothers and sisters, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious reader to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Santuario de San Jose, East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, June 25, 2003 at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Tandang Sora, Quezon City after the 2 p.m. Mass.

In Loving Memory of

Carmen "Nitang" Pelaez Robicheau

(December 3, 1924 – June 24, 2002)

on the First Anniversary of her Death
in the Grace of our Lord

... for the one who has been entrusted
with much, much more will be asked.
– Luke 12:48

She lives on in the memory of her husband, **Joseph**; daughters, **Karen** and **Anne**; son-in-law, **Loy (Saguil)**; grandchildren, **Miguel**, **Christina** and **Martin (Rovira)**, and **Sophia**, **Cristian** and **August (Saguil)**; surviving brother, **Emmanuel Pelaez Sr.** and his wife, **Edith**; nieces, nephews and friends.

Holy Mass will be celebrated at St. James
Lower Chapel, Ayala, Alabang
at 6:30 p.m., June 24, 2003.

"My soul finds rest in God alone; My salvation
comes from Him; He alone is my rock and my salvation,
He is my fortress, I will never be shaken."

HERMINIA FAJATIN REYES

Peacefully joined her Creator on June 22, 2003
at the age of 77.

Her loving husband **VIRGILIO** (†); children **CYNTHIA**, **SUSANA**, **CECILLE** and **VIRGILIO JR.** and **JANET**, brothers, sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews, grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Hope Chapel, Don Bosco Parish, Pasay Road, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m., Friday, June 27, 2003. Interment will immediately follow at Manila Memorial Park.

"... absent with the body to be present with the Lord."

2 Corinthians 5:8

"I am the resurrection and the life.
He who believes in Me will live
Eventhough he dies, and whoever
Believes in Me will never die."

ENRIQUETA COMIA PUYO

of Batangas City and Manila
Passed away peacefully in the Grace of the Lord
On June 19, 2003 at the age of 94.

Children and in-laws **Zeny** and **Ramon Villareal**, **Romy** and **Lina Lopez**, **Linda** (†) and **Tony Alban** (†), **Tessie** and **Jun Oculto** (†), **Celia** and **Benny Karganilla**, grandchildren and relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at the Garden Suite of Loyola Memorial Chapels, Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Thursday, June 26, 2003 at Manila South Cemetery after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

MWSS drops plan to tap Maynilad bond

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE METROPOLITAN Waterworks and Sewerage System (MWSS) yesterday said it would abide by the ruling of the International Arbitration Panel and would not touch the $120-million performance bond of west concessionaire Maynilad Water Services Inc.

This, however, will force the MWSS to borrow as much as $200 million from foreign and local sources to pay maturing obligations.

The MWSS earlier said it had to use at least $98.9 million of the $120-million bond to pay obligations maturing in July.

However, the International Arbitration Panel, acting on a petition filed by Maynilad, had stopped the MWSS from tapping into the performance bond.

MWSS Deputy Administrator Macra Cruz said in an interview yesterday that the MWSS had no other option but to borrow money to meet the obligations.

Under its concession agreement, Maynilad agreed to absorb old MWSS obligations to the Asian Development Bank and the World Bank amounting to $800 million. Maynilad was supposed to pay these loans in terms of concession fees.

However, Maynilad, a joint venture between the Lopez group and French firm Ondeo Phil., filed for the early termination of its concession agreement with the MWSS and stopped paying the concession fees.

Cruz said these borrowings would have to be made next month.

The concession agreement allows the MWSS to tap the bond if Maynilad failed to fulfill its obligations.

However, the arbitration panel in a June 19 order said the MWSS could not draw on the performance bond until a final award was promulgated and notices were given to concerned parties.

The arbitration panel, created by the International Chamber of Commerce, has instructed Maynilad to "issue, sign and deliver a new Letter of Credit at the soonest possible time and not later than July 15, 2003, with an expiration date not earlier than July 31, 2004.

Economic growth seen slowing down

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S economic growth will likely slow down to 4 percent in the second quarter of the year from 4.5 percent in the first quarter due to lower export earnings, Economic Planning Secretary Romulo Neri said yesterday.

"The second quarter may not be as good as the first," Neri told reporters.

He noted that the National Economic and Development Authority was projecting a 3.7-4.4 percent growth in gross domestic product for the second quarter.

This developed as export earnings faltered in April after 12 consecutive months of expansion.

Exports are a key driver of the manufacturing sector which accounts for 70 percent of the country's industrial output and contributes about a third of the domestic economy.

Despite the slower second quarter growth, however, Neri said he was confident that the Philippines would still be able to meet its full-year GDP target of 3.7-4.4 percent.

GDP refers to the total amount of goods and services produced by the domestic economy in a given period.

The good news, Neri said, was that tourism and construction would likely post robust growths in the second semester.

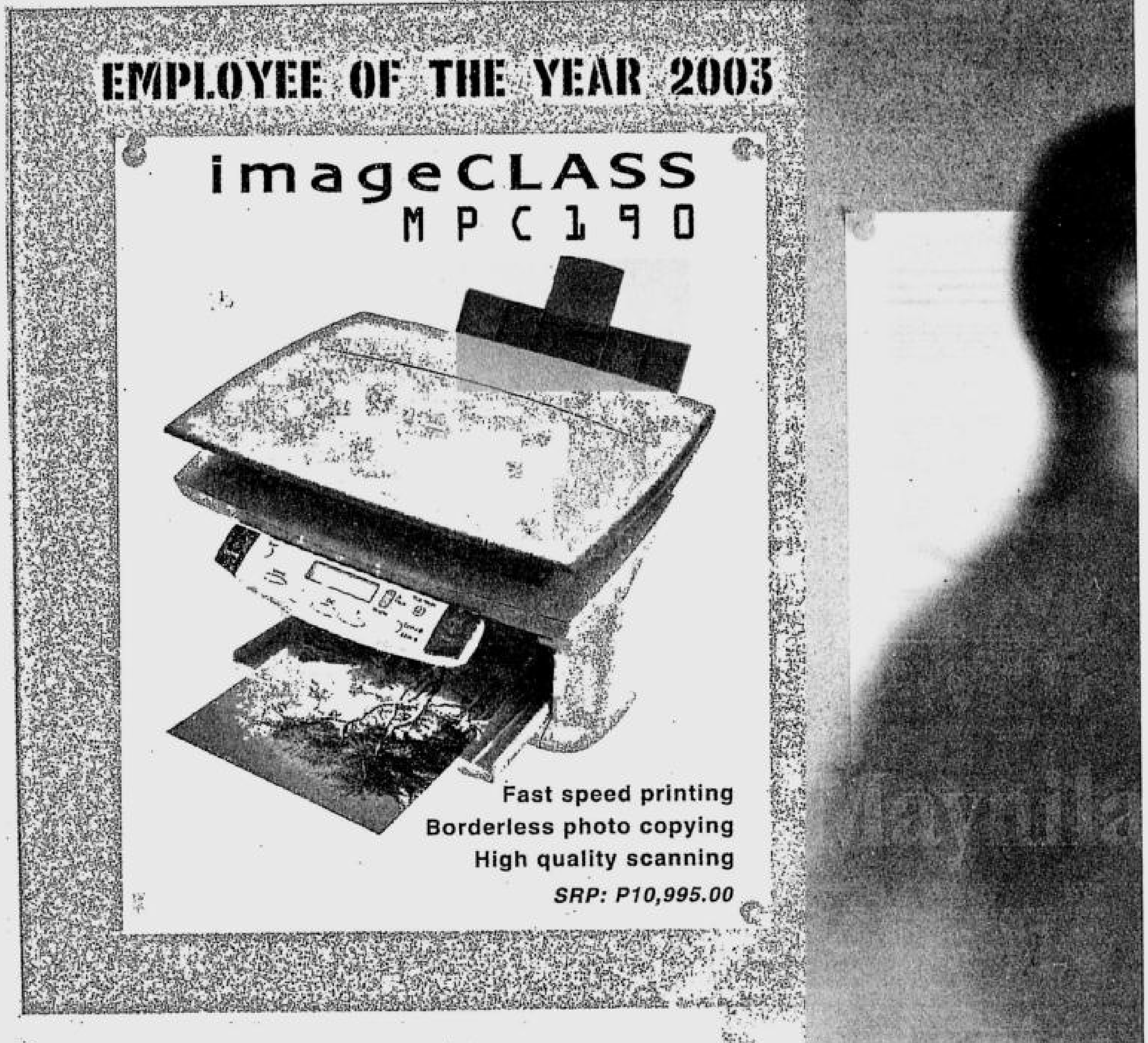
In the first quarter, domestic demand provided the much-needed boost to the economy in the face of a weak global environment.

Private consumption, buoyed by low inflation and the wide array of consumer goods in the market as a result of import liberalization, rose at its fastest pace since 1998.

Investments posted a double-digit growth, the first since 1997, although much of which was due to the building up of oil inventory at the height of the Middle East crisis.

Private construction likewise accelerated to its most robust pace since 1997, boosted by policies easing housing finance requirements.

However, public construction was stymied anew by the government's move to limit expenditures and arrest further expansion of the fiscal deficit.



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Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Rivalry of 'lifestyle' centers heightens

By Tessa R. Salazar

SATELLITE cities like Rockwell, Greenbelt, The Fort and Eastwood flaunt not only the most creative structures their design engineers and architects can think of. They also vie for the most complete recreational and service center to attract more locators and customers.

Creators of newcomer Westgate Center in Alabang will see to it, however, that their 9.2-hectare development is going to be the next destination of people not just from Metro Manila but also people from the southern area of the metropolis.

Main activity center

Though still incomplete, the Westgate Center, according to developer Filinvest Corporate City, is expected to become a main activity center for entertainment, concept stores, service centers, bars and hobby shops—a mix of shopping with dining and entertainment in its open-air streetscape and park-like environment.

Now housed in its master plan are four areas, called Precincts: Lifestyle, Central, Auto and the Anchor Block.

Lifestyle Precinct

If you haven't been in Alabang lately, you will be surprised to see fitness and gym areas—one of which is Fitness First—now standing on the Lifestyle Precinct, a previously grassy land. A sprawling S&R PriceSmart standing on the Anchor Block competes for attention a few blocks away from the Lifestyle Precinct.

Restaurants, coffee shops and bars such as Congo Grille and Brother's Burger have been established at the Central Precinct, a few blocks away from the Total service station. Banks like East West have long been open for business here.

The Central Precinct will complement the biggest area: the three-hectare Auto Precinct, which on June 14 was launched in what was called the AutoRevolution.

DIONISIO BUCCAT III

ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCAT III

Auto Precinct

The big anchor locator here is the 1,600-square-meter Minerva Tyre Gallery Group, which offers auto spa and detailing. The Auto Shack, Meguiar's and RC Int'l fill up the rest of the lineup. Soon to follow in their tracks are KIDD-B, Cargard, Tracetec and Autocraze.

Here, a typical auto cluster tenant's space measures 60 sq. m.—with a unit composed of 30 sq. m., and the rest allotted for outdoor parking.

Auto Precinct features showrooms, service shops and centers, and auto detailing shops all in one area. The "service-while-you-wait" component, thus, is enhanced by the presence of cafés and restaurants in the immediate vicinity. A typical customer, for instance, can dine at Congo Grille while waiting for his or her car to be serviced.

Of the 12 spaces available at the Auto Precinct, eight have already been taken. Within a month, most of the eight are expected to have completed their facilities and would be ready for business, said Anton Hechanova, Westgate Center's senior manager for business development.

Major auto companies such as Toyota Alabang Inc. and GM Autoworld have also been tapped to establish offices in Westgate.

Despite the rains, automobile organizations, motoring enthusiasts and car clubs from nearby villages trooped to the AutoRevolution inauguration, where about a hundred Japanese and European cars, motorbikes and scooters gathered by the Philippine Automotive Council and Motoringplus.com were exhibited.

Westgate Center is expected to be launched by the end of the year.

New amenities drive sales of Tamarind Cove lots

DISTINCT innovations in land development are driving sales at Tamarind Cove, the last phase of the highly successful Ayala Alabang community in Southern Metro Manila to be offered to the public by Ayala Land Inc. Within a week of being opened for sale, half the lots in this development were quickly taken up.

The 1.6-hectare joint project with Bank of the Philippine Islands has captured market interest primarily because it offers residents of the 20-lot enclave amenities almost for their own exclusive use.

A variety of experiences

Focal point of the intimate community is a park that offers a variety of experiences.

A lush strip of green, the Tamarind Cove park incorporates formal arrangements, a fragrance garden, tropical arrangements in addition to a playground and a common activity center. According to Ruperto Rodriguez, ALI assistant vice president and architectural and environmental planner, the series of scenes traversed by a pathway was conceptualized to sustain the interest of the viewer. He adds that the pathway, which incorporates the roadway at one point, also doubles as a jogging path that is 400 meters in length and which encircles the area.

For the children and more active residents, an open lawn is available for badminton and ball games while a gazebo serves as a good spot for relaxation.

To foster interaction among neighbors, the lots in the development are laid out in a cul-de-sac, says Rodriguez. Meanwhile, circulation in the area is not hampered by the parked vehicles of visitors. Instead, these will be directed to a motor court, a mini parking lot for 10 vehicles camouflaged by greenery.

ALI senior vice president Tristan dela Rosa relates that buyers appreciate the fact that they have their own walking track, a park that practically serves as an extension of their own properties, and other amenities. "The strong performance of Tamarind Cove indicates that they truly appreciate all these additions," he says.

Limited access

An added bonus is that Tamarind Cove has limited access. As such, it offers privacy and an added measure of security for owners of the lots which range from 520 up to 620 square meters.

Tamarind Cove residents will also have access to the other parks of Ayala Alabang as well as the two community tennis courts, six basketball courts and a swimming pool located in other phases of the village.

"Lot owners will enjoy the new features of Tamarind Cove as well as its location in an established community," notes Dela Rosa. Primed by developments like the Alabang Town Center and Madrigal Business Park, growth in this portion of Southern Metro Manila has been robust. Property values in Alabang have been sustained through the years and have been perceived as a superior investment vehicle.

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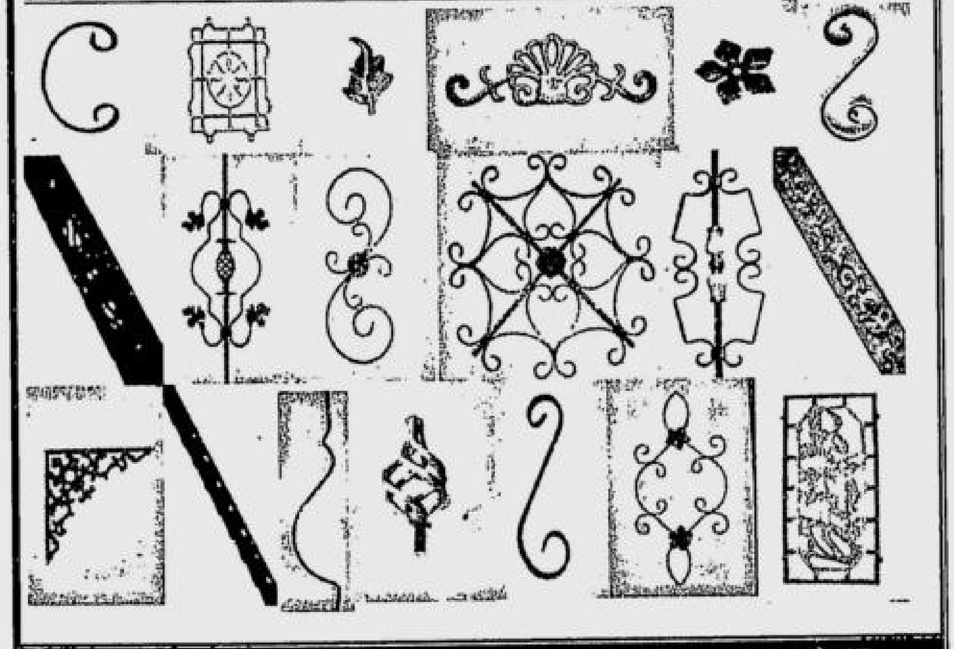

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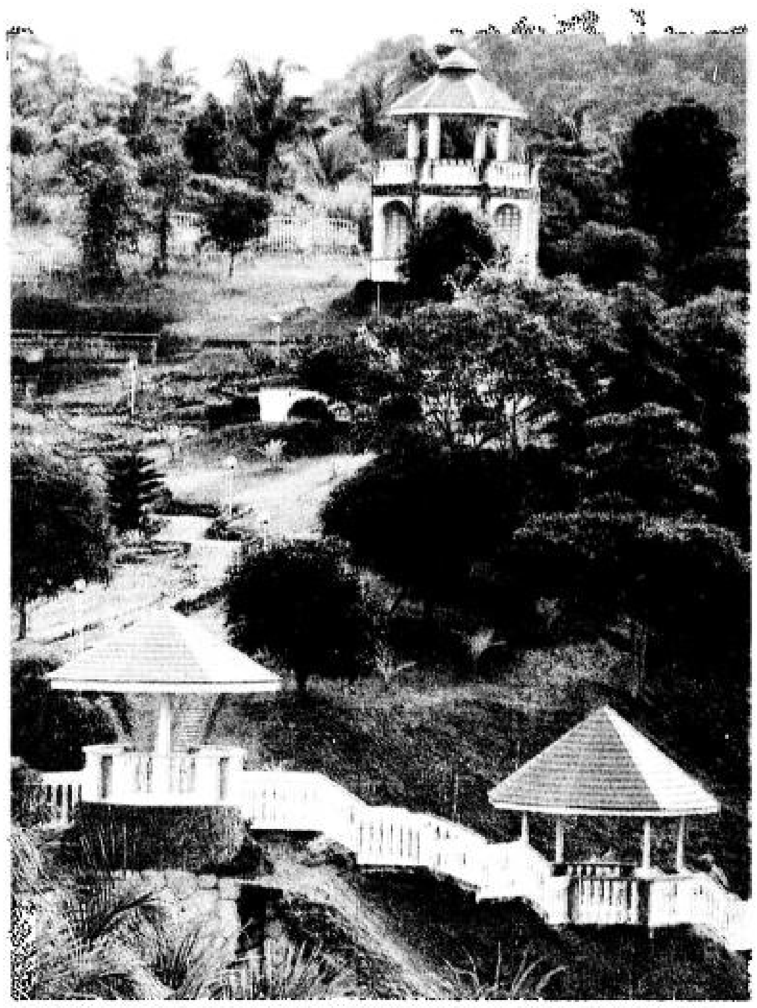
THERE'S not a dull moment at CaliRana as one can stroll for hours around the property and never run out of things to see and enjoy

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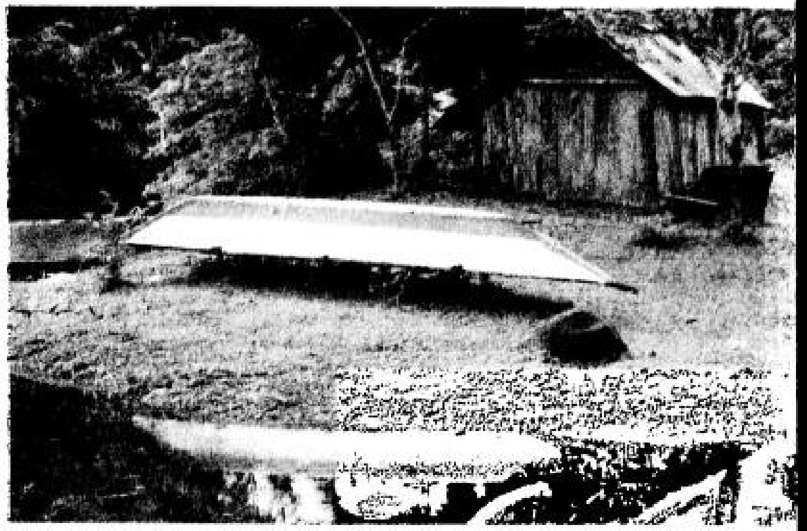

THE RUSTIC life of communities around Caliraya Lake is strongly revealed

Perfect mountai

By Charles E. Buban

AT APPROXIMATELY 110 kilometers from Manila lies a lake like no other. At 366 meters above sea level, Lake Caliraya in Laguna is not only the highest man-made lake in the Philippines but is also home to one of the country's unique resorts.

Nestled at the eastern fringes of the lake, CaliRana reveals to its visitors a lost Eden-like setting hidden amid virgin rain forests.

"The weather is cool all-year round, and the place, situated near the mountains, gives you that feeling of being so close to nature," describes resort owner Fulgencio Rana.

He says every design and every landscaping he and his wife Perla did with the resort were mostly inspired by what they saw on their constant trips abroad.

"In fact, one of the pathways at the resort was patterned after the zig-zag Lombard street of San Francisco," reveals Rana.

Getting there

There are two ways to get to CaliRana: via the South Luzon Expressway passing the towns of Calamba, Los Baños, Sta. Cruz, Pagsanjan and finally Lumban town; or through Antipolo passing the towns of Teresa, Morong, Baras, Tanay, Pililia, Mabitac, Famy, Paete and Kalayaan.

Once there, getting to CaliRana resort is already an experience. The 30-minute motorboat ride from the ferry station affords a closer look at Lake Caliraya's picturesque lakeside view while enjoying the calm waters of the lake.

"The lake was actually a large reservoir built by American engineers in 1943 to supply water to the Caliraya Hydroelectric Plant," Rana informs.

Nestled at the eastern fringes of the lake, CaliRana reveals to its visitors a lost Eden-like setting hidden amid virgin rain forests

"In fact, the Americans also seeded the lake with Largemouth Black Bass that today the lake provides a venue for game fishers," he adds.

Ideal leisure escape

CaliRana's location and amenities present an ideal leisure escape.

Its facilities include a picnic grove, swimming pools, cottages, fishing lagoons, kids' playground, activity pavilions, view decks and aqua sports.

"There's also a wide loop of Araucaria tree-lined lakeside promenade for viewing the serene waters of Caliraya Lake plus the sweeping mountain range," describes Rana.

The 2.5-hectare property is also dotted with a network of grass-thatched all-weather pathways that follow the natural terrain of the place—perfect for strolling and jogging.

There are also camping areas available for groups beyond 24. Guests however have to provide their own tents.

Humble beginnings

CaliRana started out as a small vacation house for Rana's family. "Then somebody suggested why not turn it into a resort. That was , in 1997 when we began the landscaping here," Rana reminisces.

The property, five hectares in total, was originally owned by Rana's father, who bought the property in 1945.

Because the only access to the property is through the lake, the resort is considered a safe haven.

"We also tell our guests to bring their own food, including plates, cups, spoons, forks and the like as the resort does not provide them," reminds Rana.

He also adds that the resort will not charge anything for the foods brought in and guests may use the resort's kitchen facilities (gas stove, pots and pans) if they are billeted at the Creekside Cottages and Resthouse rooms.

"Guests need to reserve as we don't want them crowding at the resort—we want them to enjoy quality stay at CaliRana," he says.

Rana can be reached at www.folrana.com or guests can also inquire at the CaliRana booking office at Culmat Building, 1270 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. near T. Morato Street, Quezon City.

BIRD'S-EYE view of the resort property reveals CaliRana' s varied landscape.

The Sultan's crop master

Text and photos by Tessa R. Salazar

SAM Juan doesn't just have a green thumb. He gives royal treatment to all types of plants, particularly those that feed hungry families.

And he has that regal flair for landscaping.

You may say his talent was "inherited." Sam has worked at the sultanate of Brunei Darussalam's two palaces: the family's castle and the government's stronghold as a landscape maintenance supervisor. He brought art to the sultan's household horizon for two years.

Green thumb

Sam also worked in the sultanate of Oman, taking care of His Majesty's crops. Tomato, watermelon and sweet melon were his specialties, and not quite incidentally among Oman's three main agricultural exports. He says it was in Oman that he developed his green thumb.

And now he is in Tanza, Cavite, as a farm manager of the Balinese-inspired Nusa Dua Farm Estate. Here, he continues his spell of royal magic among the landowners there, coaxing imported vegetables such as lettuce, eggplant, Chinese *kangkong*, honey dew tomato, bell pepper, squash and other hybrid crops to take root and thrive in Filipino soil.

Sam now concentrates on farming. The Nusa Dua farm estate, he says, dwells more on agriculture, aquaculture and animal culture (except for piggeries).

'Theme to beat'

Wearing green and busy attending to the visitors and farm owners of Nusa Dua estate in a formal turnover ceremony to the owners last Sunday, the unassuming farm administrator of Filinvest Land's farm lot development in Paradahan, Tanza, believes the Balinese accent is the "theme to beat" among farm estate designs.

A Balinese accent, according to Sam, consists basically of a Filipino house with a more intricate design. It uses more earth tones, and builds with sturdiness in mind.

BALI-INSPIRED playground

Nusa Dua owners can now start planting on their properties and build their houses. The roads are almost completely paved.

Farm lot owners who put up farmhouses in their property are required to inject some Balinese accents in their structures, says Gilbert Ang, business development manager. The intricate design of Balinese-inspired farm houses makes the farm estate unique and distinct, he adds.

The 200-hectare development, with lots ranging from 750 to 2,000 sq. m., is a project of Filinvest Land Inc. Each lot fetches for about P1.2 million each.

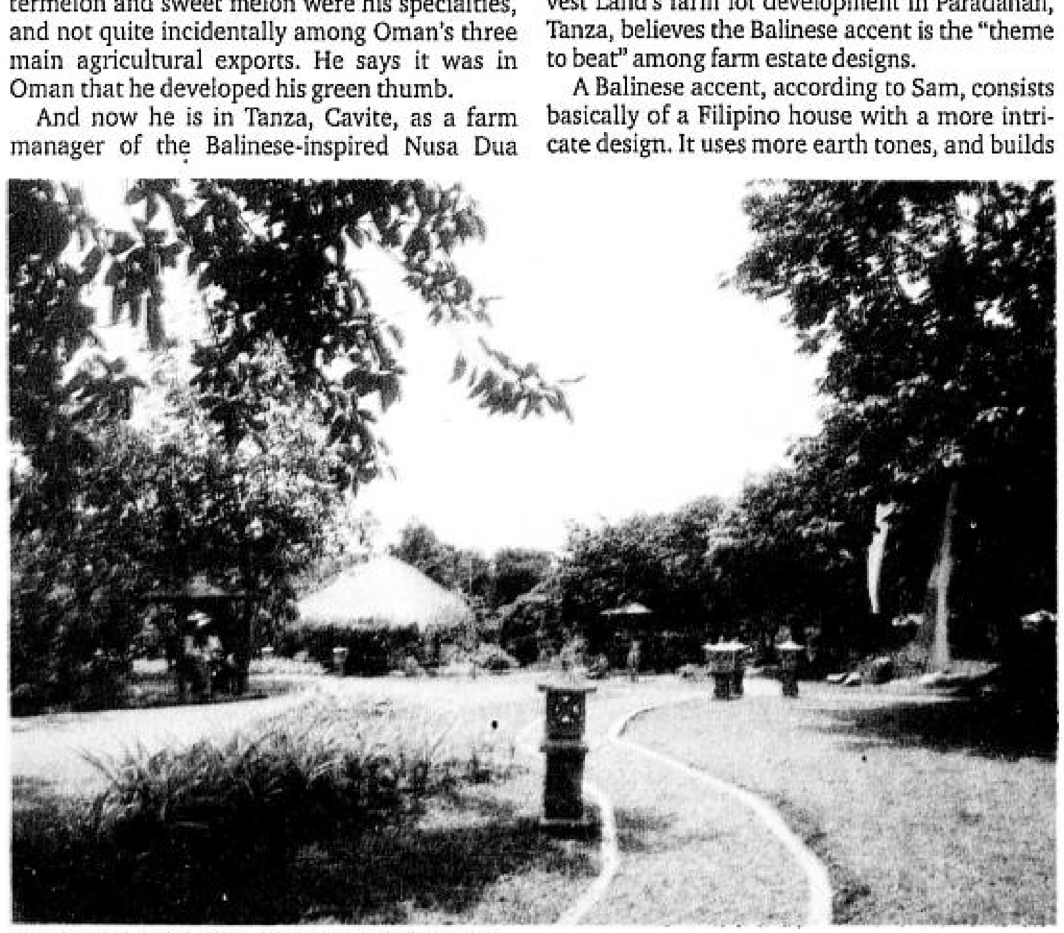
Rest, recreation sanctuary

The Nusa Dua farm estate is envisioned to be a rest and recreation sanctuary complete with farming components and a country-style house.

For people who've had enough of beach houses and golf courses, leisure farming is a preferred alternative weekend lifestyle, Ang says.

"It's a new lifestyle, even a new enterprise," he adds.

Filinvest believes a big market exists for this "new lifestyle" because Filipinos are farmers by heart.


INTRICATELY designed walkway at the park

Helpful hints for bu

A FAMILY'S first home is always a "labor of love" that amounts from sheer patience, hard work and a commitment to provide a dwelling for their members. Newlyweds or families who get the chance to buy or build their dream home are thus, subjected to a lot of pressure in matters of preparing everything for this project that is not only an investment but a symbol of the start of a new life.

Building a home can cause not only excitement but a lot of grief and anxiety. The undertaking demands great patience and extraordinary courage because homeowners can encounter a lot of difficulties as they undergo the process. Most local builders have a distressing habit of missing deadlines, running over budget, producing shabby work and refusing to take responsibility for their mistakes. If they plan everything well and get the right persons for the job, then everything will be set for a family's first home.

Tips for first-time homeowners

Dursban Premium Termiticide Concentrate, a trusted brand to provide efficient pre- and postconstruction treatment against termite infestations, gives the following tips to first-time homeowners embarking on the building of their dream home:

- Check around for good contractors and experienced construction firms that can assist you with permits as well as building. Interview several companies and ask lots of questions. Make sure that the land has the proper title confirming that the property is suitable for construction.
- Make a close, personal inspection of the property, note the boundaries, the location and condition of fences and/or property markers. If you think it's necessary, bring in a surveyor to look things over.
- One of the most important things you can do is to make yourself a checklist as you search for, find and buy a home. By keeping on top of your plan at all times, you will gr
chances of success.
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in this lakeside scene.

THE BOAT ride is just the beginning of an unforgettable experience at CaliRana.

n getaway

THIS portion at CaliRana looks like a scene in one of Claude Monet's paintings.

PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

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BUDGET
Checklist

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

- Watch your construction allowances. Generally, in the total cost of building a house you will be given allowances for such items as flooring (carpeting and vinyl), lighting and plumbing fixtures. Make certain that you can actually get the materials you want within the allowance amount.
- Make sure that the soil of your property has been pretreated with termiticide, to prevent the infestation of termites in the future. Preventive treatment against termites is a reasonable investment for the home, especially if the structure has had no prior history of treatment. If the building was previously treated by a pest control firm, it's a good idea to maintain this because there's a big likelihood that termites can reinfest the building (which can happen even if the initial treatment was performed correctly).

Experts say there are only two types of houses: one that has termite infestations, and the other which will soon be infested. The brand that offers the ultimate in termite extermination is Dursban Premium Termiticide Concentrate. It is manufactured by Dow AgroSciences, an industry leader in pest control, specifically for termite protection. Among other termiticides in the market, customers get the best deal from Dursban because it offers absolute termite extermination, has low odor, and most of all, is affordable for medium- to low-budget homes.

Dursban may be lethal to termites but poses no danger to people and house pets provided procedures indicated in the label are properly followed.

Keep your house and building free from pesky termites by using the right and effective termiticide that also provides value-for-money: Dursban. Ask your pest control operator to apply Dursban around your home or building, between the structure and the termites' underground colony and you're assured that Dursban will keep termites away from your dream home.

For inquiries or assistance for termites, call the hotline numbers 772-5006, 772-5007 or 772-5011.

Using design-build construction services

BUILDING DREAMS

By Alexis A. Acacio, Ph.D.

UNLIKE in the traditional method of project delivery in which a designer is hired separately from a contractor, the design-build method focuses mainly on only two entities—the owner, and the designer-builder. The owner talks only to one firm. The design-build firm, chosen by the owner either through bidding or direct negotiation, is tasked to take the owner's requirements for the project, provide the necessary contract documents (detailed plans, specifications, construction schedule, etc.) and carry the responsibility of its construction.

In this method, the owner arranges for professional consultations to help communicate the required output of the project to the firm, similar to the traditional method. On the other hand, unlike the traditional method, design-build is more preferred in construction requiring specialization. Custom-designed homes are also appropriate to be built under the design-build method. Design and build can also be used in highly specialized construction work like oil refineries and large city projects such as long span bridges and water treatment plants. There are certain companies that specialize in both the design and construction of specific types of structures.

In a design-build arrangement, the client or the owner transacts directly with the designer-builder who takes full responsibility for the project.

Advantages

Using the design-build approach offers the following advantages:

- **Open communication.** The best advantage in a design-build project is that the owner, together with the project itself, gets the best communication and transition from the plans to the actual construction of the structure. As the designer itself constructs its own design, the risk of misunderstanding and misinterpreting in construction is almost eliminated. Designs are made feasible for construction even before the design phase is completed. Specialized designer-builders have efficient methods allowing for smooth operations.
- **Better coordination.** This approach also lessens the burden of the owner in coordinating two entities, as the traditional approach does. Valuable time is saved in this mode of delivery. In the traditional method, every step in the project is strictly sequential. Bidding cannot proceed without a complete design and construction cannot start without a winning bidder.
- **Fast completion.** The design-build method allows the fast completion of projects. It is very appropriate for emergency projects in which a structure has to be built very fast after a major disaster. A good example is a collapsed bridge after a major flood or earthquake. If construction would require a design and then a bidding to select the appropriate contractor, it may take a lot of time before the structure gets completed. Hence, a design-build arrangement will immediately commence the repair works and the bridge will be available for public use in a very brief time.
- **Overlapping of activities.** In the design-build method, the major steps in the project can be overlapped in terms of its schedule. The design can be divided into parts and once a part is completed, its construction can immediately proceed, thus, cutting a considerable period of time from the overall schedule of the project, and in turn, reducing the cost of rental, labor and the risk of inflation and other complications. The early completion of a project can provide a lot of economic benefits to the owner.

Disadvantages

The disadvantages of the design-build method include:

- **Determining actual costs.** The problem in this type of delivery is that the owner cannot determine exactly the actual cost of the project before a firm is hired to construct the structure. To solve this, project owners usually make an estimate on the overall cost of the project with the constructor to push through with the contract. Once given, the designer-builder has to work within the financial confines of the contract, which may have an effect on the quality of materials and work, or even the duration of the project.
- **Owner control.** The noninvolvement of the owner also means that he or she may not fully understand the technicalities as well as the problems and solutions to them. Although the owner has more time away from the concerns of the project, he or she also doesn't have the chance to update himself or herself on the activities of project. Change orders may come too late in the project and will cost more than if those changes were made at the right time. The owner in a design-build arrangement may request a regular update on the processes to ensure that he or she is informed about what is actually happening in the project.

Trust is the key

As in any professional engagement, the owner should have to trust the designer-builder when it comes to inspections and quality control at the site.

Because the designer is also responsible for the construction, there is no outside opinion on the project unlike that in the traditional method, where the owner or a hired and trusted architect or project manager oversees the project in a third person point of view.

Trust is the most important element in the design-build arrangement.

Final Note. The main advantage of the design-build method is the seamless coordination between the designers and builders since they belong to the same firm. A project is usually completed fast in this type of arrangement. If you are to engage in this type of arrangement, make sure that everything is clearly defined in the contract agreement so that you would know what to expect. Always seek the advice and guidance of a competent engineering professional of your choice.

(For comments and advice, you may reach Alexis Acacio at aaacacio@pacific.net.ph or call 952-0684.)

Moldex to hold open house in Metrogate San Jose

MOLDEX Realty Marketing Inc., the exclusive marketing arm of Moldex Realty Inc., one of the leading real estate companies in the country, will be holding a grand open house on June 28 at Metrogate San Jose (MGSJ) in Bulacan.

"All prospective buyers are welcome to drop in anytime to come and see the place," said MRMI president Editha L. Manansala.

MGSJ was designed from the start to take advantage of the peaceful setting of San Jose and the conveniences of modern living that Moldex always brings into its projects. Its features include an entire clubhouse complex, a swimming pool, a basketball court, a tennis court, plus a playground for the kids.

For buyers, Moldex offers a one-stop-shop program called the Perfect Home Service Package (PHSP). This is a tie-up with select design-and-build groups and government units to deliver the easiest, most flexible payment terms to the buyer who wants to acquire a house and lot. Moldex said that the PHSP, for starters, provides financing services through GSIS, HDMF or through bank financing. It also provides lot acquisition, house and furnishing complimentary services.

Interested parties can go straight to MGSJ on June 28 or call MRMI at 522-7777 loc. 156 for particulars. MRMI holds office at 3/F Golden Bay Hotel, Roxas Boulevard corner Padre Faura, Ermita, Manila.

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Rice possible building material, says architect

Biomolecular age will usher a new set of building materials side by side with 'green' philosophies in architecture

By Tessa R. Salazar

CAN we actually create building materials out of rice parts with the application of biotechnology? Architect Geronimo M. Manahan, Ph.D., sparked interest from a crowd of construction technology architects and engineers recently at a forum on the future trends for environmentally sound building technology and materials when he said this was possible. He added rice straws resistant to fire, vermin and rotting could even be developed.

Applying solar energy in the production of such materials, he said, would even make the materials become environmentally sustainable and energy-efficient to produce.

"We can have rice husks with less carbon and more silica so that we can have better quality rice hull ash or RHA," he said.

RHA is said to significantly improve the durability of concrete and substantially replace silica fume as an additive, at lower cost. Past efforts have been made to incorporate RHA with brick elements for housing.

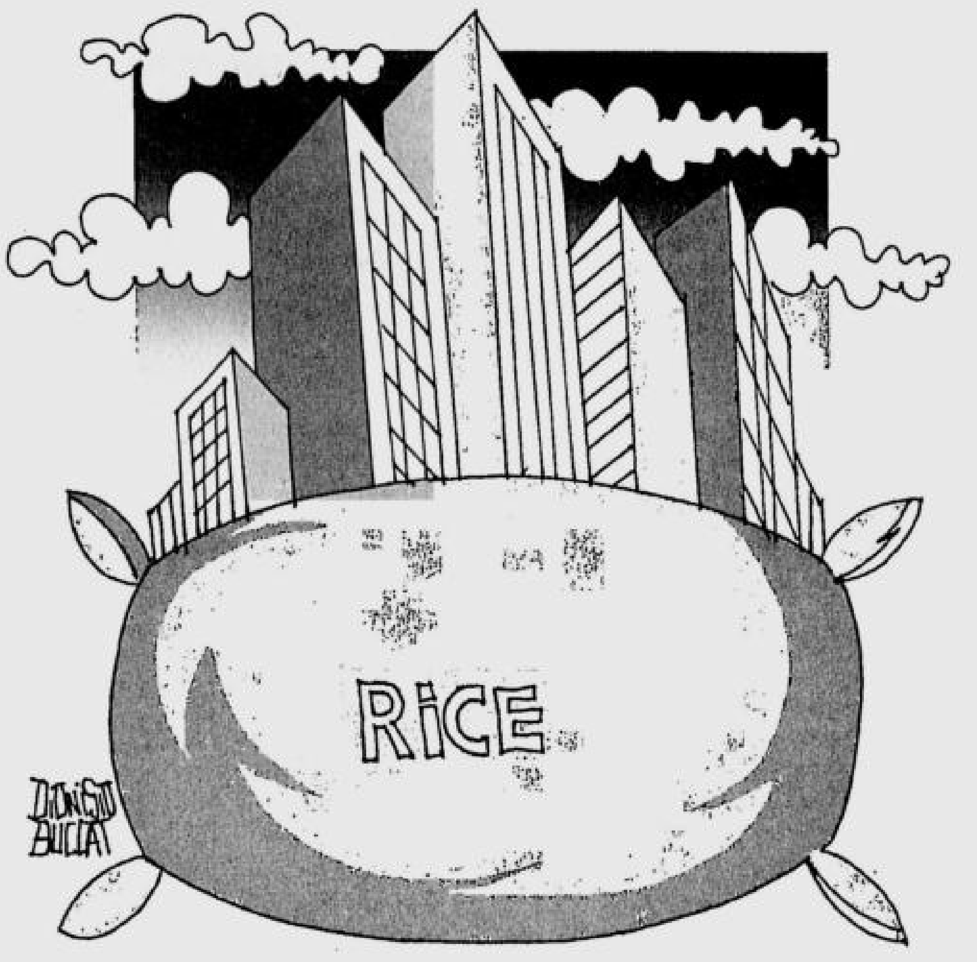

ILLUSTRATION: DIONISIO BUCCAT III

Low-cost building element

RHA can be an added component into cement sand bricks and could be seen as a potential low-cost building element where rice husk is available.

Burning the husk into ash under controlled conditions and milling it, slightly turns it into a powdery siliceous lightweight foam block.

Manahan also predicted that building technologies and architectural science would eventually come up with a more innovative approach for environmentally-sound materials.

"In the future, all buildings will be built from sustainable, ecologically friendly materials that are as healthy to their occupants as they are to the Earth," predicted Manahan.

Innovative

At Environmental Building Supplies, he said, the selection of ecologically sound building products is "innovative." The products, he said, help the buyer create the healthy buildings of tomorrow today, and answer the growing clamor for environmentally conscious building materials.

He said that nowadays the principle lies in having a place to live and work that is beautiful, functional and healthy for both inhabitants and the environment. Manahan said products of the special stores minimize their impact on the environment. These products are all natural and renewable as well.

Manahan said there is a need for competent research scientists and professionals capable of working with new technologies. The government, he said, has a large role to play in answering this need.

"For developing economies, maintaining a research capability for the construction/building industry is insurance in meeting exigencies brought up by emergencies due to unforeseen events," he said.

Use of new materials

Future technical problems will need to be resolved and associated with the use of new materials, he added.

The Biomolecular age is also being predicted to usher in new sets of building materials side by side with "green" philosophies in architecture and biomaterials.

The only question lies in the new building materials' capabilities in terms of widespread application, cost reductions and product deliveries.

Manahan also said biotechnology could lead to new processes and innovations in the built environment, again creating the need for new types of buildings constructed from materials conceived within biomolecular principles.

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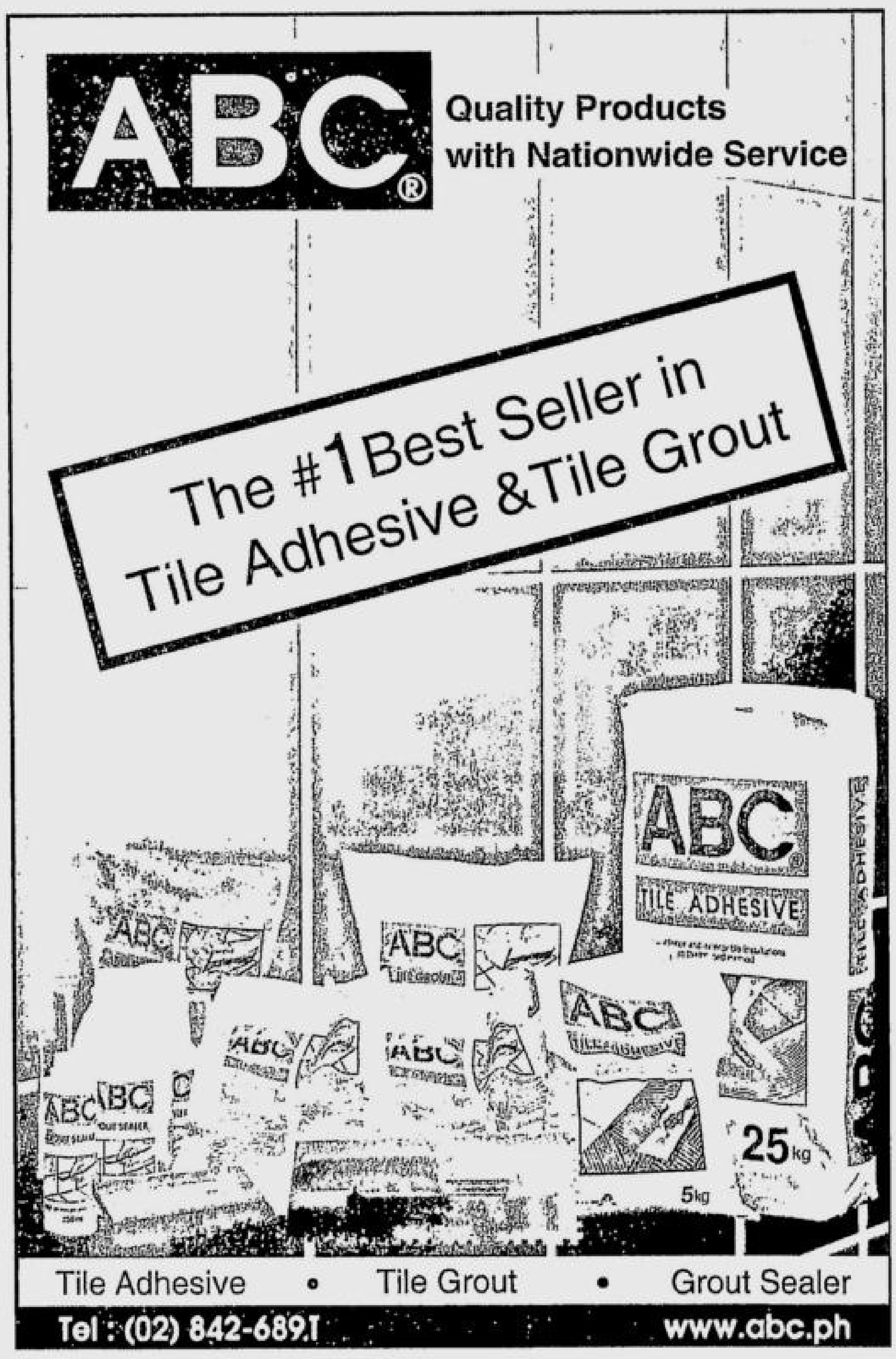
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Elegant and expansive living at The Residences at Greenbelt

By Charles E. Buban

THERE'S a new development in the ongoing transformation of Greenbelt in Makati City.

Rising on a property bounded by Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road), Greenbelt Drive, Esperanza Drive and Paseo de Roxas, Ayala Land Inc. announces the launch of The Residences at Greenbelt.

Taking off from the luxurious and exclusive Residences apartments above Greenbelt 2, The Residences at Greenbelt is composed of three towers rising on top of a landscaped podium lined with restaurants and service/convenience retail outlets on the ground floor.

The first phase of the development is the 48-story Laguna Tower.

Anticipation

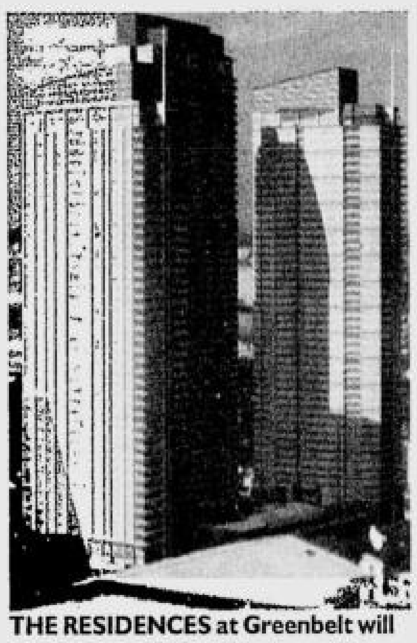
Says sales manager Sonny Ranada of Ayala Land Sales Inc.: "People may wonder why ALI is pushing on this development when right now the market is still sluggish. The market is in a cycle of ups and downs. We believe that by the time we finish this property four to five years from now, the market has rebounded.

"This is the right time to invest in properties like The Residences at Greenbelt," he adds.

Aside from a posh address, the ground level of The Residences at Greenbelt will boast of high-end dining and specialty shopping for residents and visitors.

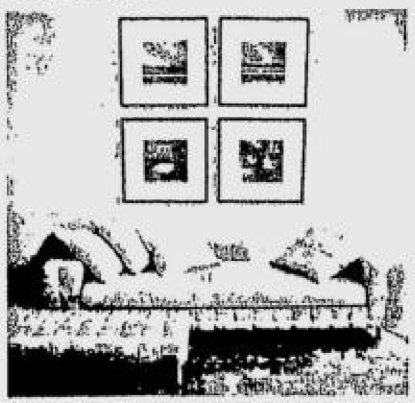
Residents can also hop to nearby Greenbelt 2 to experience fine dining; Greenbelt 3 to shop, watch movies or enjoy coffee at the patio; Greenbelt 4 for future delights; Greenbelt 1 for other services and conveniences.

The property will also be linked to the rest of the Ayala Center and the rest of the Makati Central Business District via an elevated walkway system.



THE RESIDENCES at Greenbelt will be the most visible high-rise within the Greenbelt complex.

DINING area



LIVING room

Metropolitan living

Within The Residences at Greenbelt, ALI will take metropolitan living to new heights.

Laguna Tower offers two- and three-bedroom homes from 118 to more than 220 square meters in area, in single-level flats and two-story podium garden units.

Each unit will offer features and amenities designed for comfortable urban living. Large, well-ventilated kitchens, full-size living rooms, dining rooms, a maid's room and toilet and bath all come as standard.

Many units come with balconies perfect for enjoying the magnificent view.

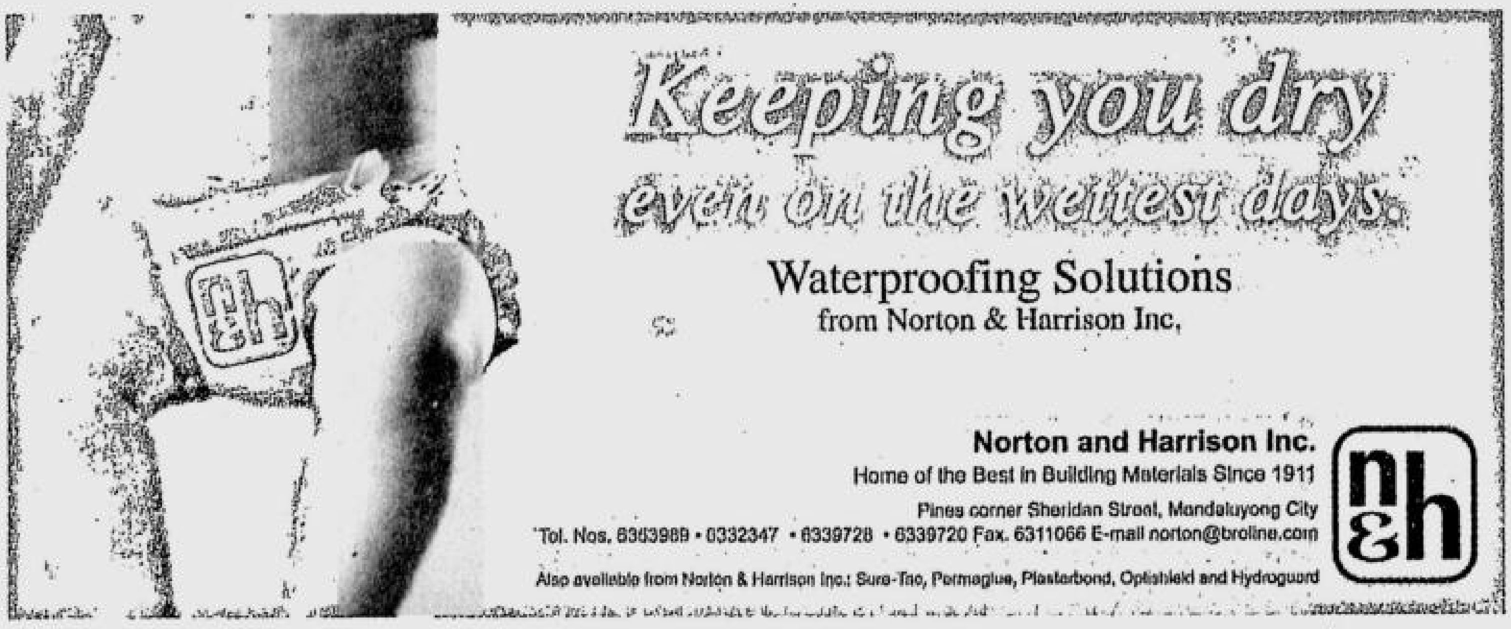
"The higher floors offer the widest view of the city and outlying areas, from the northern ridges of Antipolo to the expanse of Laguna de Bay, to the shimmering waters of Manila Bay," describes Ranada

Makati skyline

Other residents will have the view of the Makati skyline, with the tree-lined streets of Legaspi, Urdaneta and San Lorenzo villages and the rest of the Greenbelt Park.

Units in The Residences at Greenbelt Laguna Tower come with two parking spaces. As in the Greenbelt Townhouses above Greenbelt 2, access to the residential areas will be private, secure and discreet and monitored by a 24-hour security system.

"The Residences at Greenbelt continues the upscale living, the vibrant and dynamic lifestyle that the rest of Greenbelt offers," describes Ranada. "It epitomizes the distinctive style of those who expect the best. It's the evolution of what it means to live the high life."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MASONS SKILLS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM
Union Cement Corp. and Tesda Region 2 launch Cementodo 2003, an annual Masons Skills Development Program. Present during the contract signing are Union representative Rey S. Santos, AVP for North Luzon Sales, and Southern Isabela College of Arts & Trade (Sicat) Supt. Wilbert C. dela Cruz as Tesda representative. The Cementodo Masonry Skills competition was held at the Sicat grounds in Santiago City, Isabela last June 18-20.

Fitness LIFESTYLE

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or email us at pr_lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

Slim Tea
stephB.

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Slimming teas are not for daily use

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

FROM A READER:

I have been taking a slimming herbal tea for almost a year now. I take it every night. I am worried and not sure if this herbal tea is safe (or if it) may cause fertility problems in the long run. Is it safe to drink this tea every night before sleeping? Will there be any side effects? Are the ingredients safe for consumption? Or will I have problems conceiving? Please help me. This is a very crucial question. I'm so afraid that this could affect my menstrual cycle and giving birth.

There are two kinds of "slimming" or "diet" herbal teas—those that contain laxatives and/or diuretics (senna is a common ingredient) and those that contain herbs like ma huang that suppress the appetite but can also cause nervousness, sleeplessness and palpitation. Slimming teas should not be confused with other herbal teas like green tea, chamomile, ginger, peppermint, etc.

The slimming tea that the reader is talking about (she mentioned the brand in her e-mail but I decided not to reveal it) is of the laxative variety and contains senna.

Laxative dependency

Using senna on a daily basis is not safe because the herb is a "stimulant laxative" that works by irritating the colon to empty its contents. Stimulant laxatives (whether herbal or laboratory-made) should not be used for more than one week because prolonged use can make the muscular walls of the colon weak and sluggish.

This means that your colon may no longer function properly on its own and you may not be able to go to the bathroom without the tea. This is great for manufacturers since you are now part of a captive market and they can count on your being a loyal client for years to come. But this is not good news for you because the longer you use herbal stimulant laxatives, the greater the risk of permanently damaging your colon. Also, some studies suggest that long-term use of senna is associated with a higher risk of colon cancer.

It is much safer to use a fiber "bulking agent" like psyllium or wheat bran if you suffer from constipation. Fiber, whether from a supplement or from fruits, vegetables and whole grains, will not damage your colon. Make sure you drink a lot of water with the fiber. Regular abdominal exercises also help because contracting your abdominal muscles massages the intestines.

Excessive loss of water can be dangerous

The other danger of using slimming teas is the excessive loss of water from chronic diarrhea. This can lead to dehydration and the loss of electrolytes and minerals like calcium, magnesium and, most importantly, potassium. Low potassium levels can cause muscle weakness, paralysis and cardiac arrhythmia (irregular heart beat). In a worst case scenario, it can lead to death.

This is what happened to 37-year-old June Grell of California in 1991. She had been drinking a slimming tea containing senna for several months when she died unexpectedly and suddenly in her sleep. Several physicians involved in her case pointed to the senna in the tea as the reason why she died from severe cardiac arrhythmia.

Her death inspired her lawyer-husband, Christopher Grell, to become a leading advocate for the regulation of herbal laxatives and diuretics. His relentless campaigning resulted in the passing of a California regulation requiring a warning to consumers on the labels of products containing herbal laxatives like senna. The warning states, in part, that "chronic use of laxatives can impair colon function" and that "acute or chronic diarrhea may result in serious injury or death."

Slimming teas and weight loss

Many dieters take slimming teas because they believe that frequent bowel movements will prevent the food they eat from being absorbed. However, according to an article in FDA Consumer Magazine, "a special committee of FDA's Food Advisory Committee concluded in 1995 that studies show laxative-induced diarrhea does not significantly reduce absorption of calories. This is because the laxatives do not work on the small intestine, where calories are absorbed, but rather on the colon, the lower end of the bowel."

Apparently though, if you take laxatives in very large doses for prolonged periods, absorption of fat is impaired, which can cause greasy diarrhea and weight loss. This is according to the Columbia University medical team behind the popular Go Ask Alice! health website. Laxative abuse is a common practice among anorexics and bulimics. The trade-off for weight loss may be permanent gastrointestinal tract damage and osteomalacia (softening of the bones) due to poor absorption of Vitamin D and calcium. Death could also come knocking at your door just like it did for four women whose deaths were reported to the FDA. All the women were on restrictive diets and were abusing herbal stimulant laxatives.

Slimming teas and fertility

According to Dr. Rebecca Singson, gynecologist and obstetrician at the Makati Medical Hospital and Asian Hospital, slimming teas are not known to directly interfere with the menstrual cycle or fertility unless they cause rapid weight loss.

She says, however, that it is not safe for pregnant women to be taking laxatives and diuretics of any kind. Responsible herbalists also do not recommend the use of senna and other herbal laxatives during pregnancy. Therefore, if you are trying to conceive, the wisest thing to do would be to stop taking the slimming tea because you don't know when you will get pregnant. If you continue taking the tea, you might be drinking it when you are in the early stages of pregnancy and don't even know yet that you are pregnant.

Other herbal laxatives

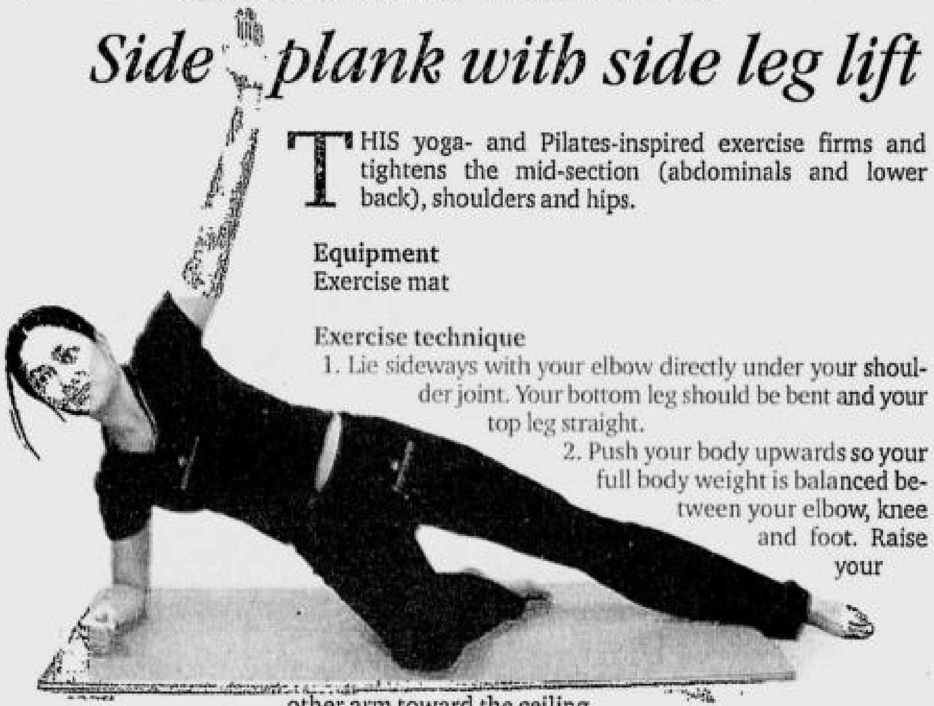
According to the FDA, other herbal laxatives aside from senna are cascara sagrada, aloe, rhubarb root, buckthorn and castor oil. (Senna may be listed under its Latin name, Cassia angustifolia.) These substances should not be taken for more than one week and dosages should not exceed the manufacturer's recommendations.

SLIMMING/ D4

> A slimming tea is a stimulant laxative that works by irritating the colon to empty its contents

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Side plank with side leg lift



THIS yoga- and Pilates-inspired exercise firms and tightens the mid-section (abdominals and lower back), shoulders and hips.

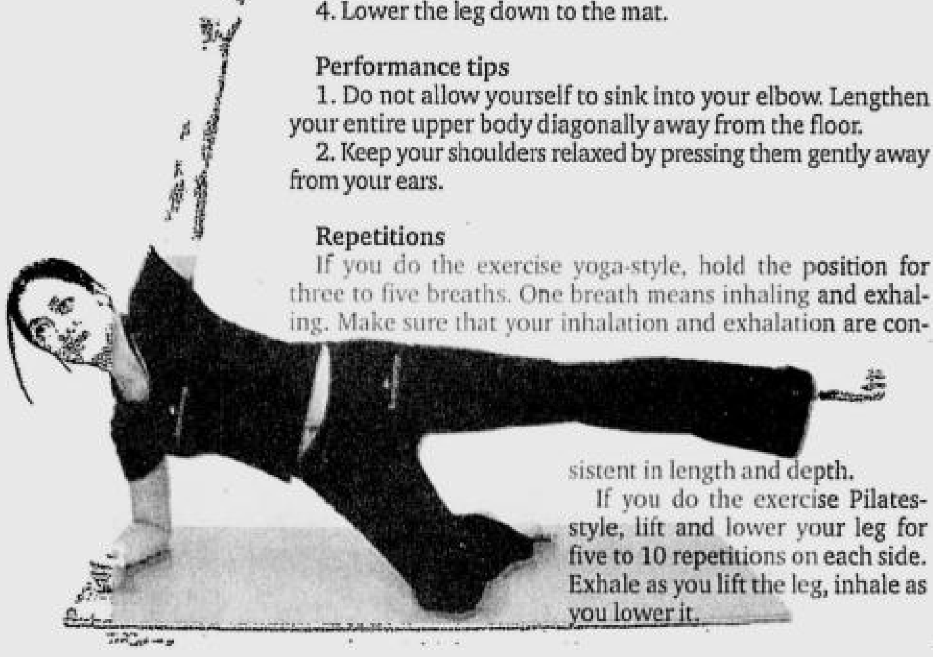
Equipment
Exercise mat

Exercise technique

1. Lie sideways with your elbow directly under your shoulder joint. Your bottom leg should be bent and your top leg straight.
2. Push your body upwards so your full body weight is balanced between your elbow, knee and foot. Raise your other arm toward the ceiling.
3. Lift your leg to hip level.
4. Lower the leg down to the mat.

Performance tips

1. Do not allow yourself to sink into your elbow. Lengthen your entire upper body diagonally away from the floor.
2. Keep your shoulders relaxed by pressing them gently away from your ears.



Repetitions

If you do the exercise yoga-style, hold the position for three to five breaths. One breath means inhaling and exhaling. Make sure that your inhalation and exhalation are consistent in length and depth.

If you do the exercise Pilates-style, lift and lower your leg for five to 10 repetitions on each side. Exhale as you lift the leg, inhale as you lower it.

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Demonstration/Student Participation Classes

JUST DESSERTS 4 June 26, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Fudge Brownies with Bittersweet Chocolate Glaze, Buttery Sour Cream Cake with Cinnamon Chocolate Filling, Molded Fruit Salad, Banana Muffins with Streusel Topping, Marble Cake Version 2 Tuition Fee - P850

DESSERTS 1 (new course) June 28, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm Light Lemon Cake with Lemon Buttercream & Praline, Chocolate Cake with Mocha Whipped Cream, Chocolate Shards & Almond Flakes, Mocha Cake with Chocolate Buttercream, Chocolate Cream Pie, Tiny Pine Nut Tarts Tuition Fee - P850

DELIGHTFULLY NO BAKE DELIGHTS 2 July 1, Tuesday 1:30-5:00 pm Cathedral Windows Version 2, Peaches and Cream No Bake Cheesecake, Black Forest No Bake Cheesecake, Italian Refrigerator Cake, Ube Pandan No Bake Cheesecake Tuition Fee - P850

CHICKEN ON THE MENU (new course) July 3, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Roast Chicken with Apples, Chicken Roulade, Chicken Molo (Mexican Stew), Chicken Kare Kare, Chargrilled Chicken Wings with Papaya Salad Tuition Fee - P1,000

FOR THE LOVE OF CHOCOLATE 1 July 5, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm Chocolate Cake with Caramel Sauce, Black and White Cheesecake with Caramel Sauce, No Fail Chocolate Crinkles Version 2, Chocolate Fudge Squares Supreme, Not Just Another Brownie Version 2 Tuition Fee - P850

DESSERTS 2 (new course) July 8, Tuesday, 1:30-5:00 pm Apple Oatmeal Muffins, Baklava Made Easy, Hungarian Nut Horns, Caramel Coffee Cake, Baked Orange Cheesecake Tuition Fee - P850

A TASTE OF ITALY (new course) July 10, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm 2 Sauces For Pasta - Gorgonzola Sauce and Classic Bolognese, 2 Risottos - Risotto with Shrimps and Peas and Risotto Milanese, Caesar Salad Made Easy, Porkchop Milanese Tuition Fee - P1,000

AFTER DINNER MENU 2 (new course) July 12, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm Mexican Quesadilla, Bite Size Quiche, Salpicado, Calamares, Corned Beef Croquetas, Tinapang Bangus Spread, Spicy Sardine Dip, Paella Valenciana, Shirley Temple Drink, Margarita Tuition Fee - P1,000

Hands-On Baking Classes

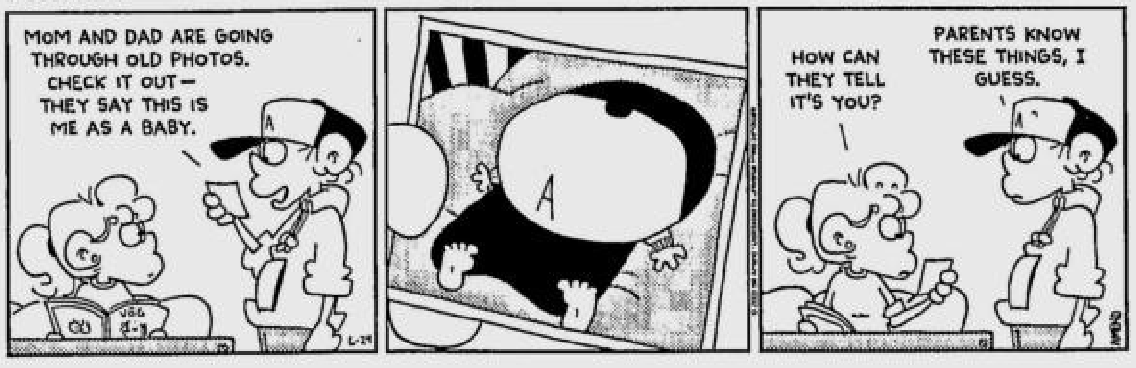
HANDS ON BAKING 4 July 15, Tuesday, 10 am to 4 pm Bread making part 2, hands-on from start to finish! Mini Cinnamon Rolls, Siopao 3 ways (steamed, baked and fried), Mini Ensaymada with Parmesan Cheese, Cheese Rolls with Herbs and Spicy Sausage and Braided Raisin Loaf Everything hand-kneaded except for Ensaymada and Cheese Rolls Tuition Fee - P1,000 (lunch included)

Hands-On Cooking Classes

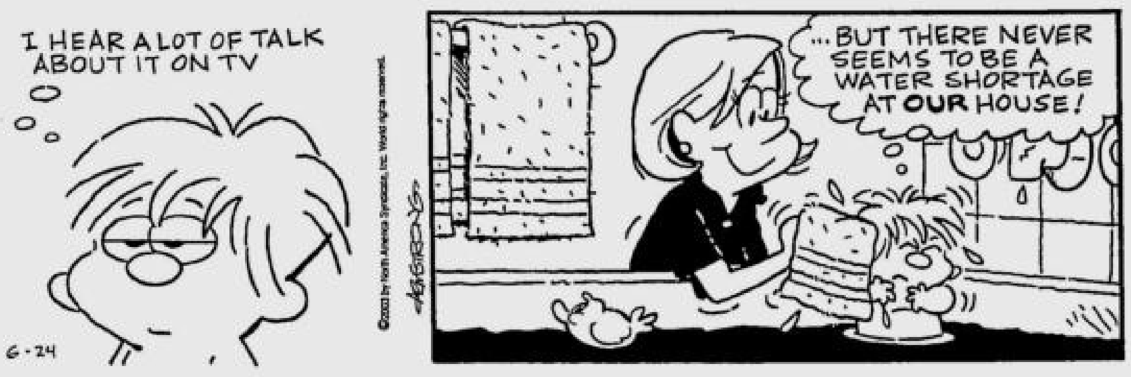
ALL STUFFED 1 July 17, Thursday, 10 am to 4 pm. A complete hands-on cooking class featuring exotic but easy recipes to add to your repertoire of "mukhang mahirap" recipes - Fried Prawns with Gabi Filling, Chicken Stuffed with Mangoes in Curry Sauce served on a bed of fried noodles, Simplified Cabbage Rolls Tuition Fee - P1,000 (lunch included)

TUITION FEE INCLUDES RECIPE HANDOUT AND INGREDIENTS.
TO ENROLL, PLEASE CALL 721-7735, MONDAYS TO SATURDAYS, 9 AM TO 6 PM ONLY.
SEATING ARRANGEMENT ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE BASIS.
With the special participation of
San Miguel Pure Foods Bella Italia Olive Oil, Pasta & Sauces Nestlé Glad Wraps & Bags Peotraco Kraft Foods

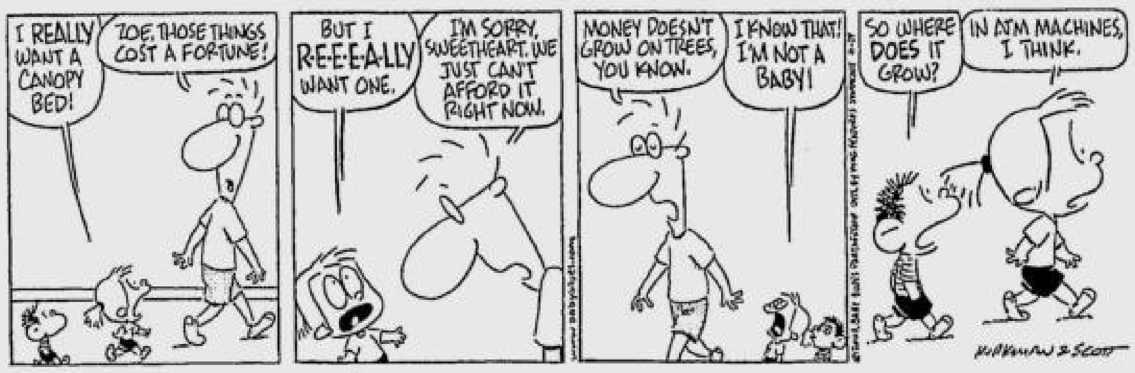
FOXTROT
BY BILL AMEND


MOM AND DAD ARE GOING THROUGH OLD PHOTOS. CHECK IT OUT— THEY SAY THIS IS ME AS A BABY.
HOW CAN THEY TELL IT'S YOU?
PARENTS KNOW THESE THINGS, I GUESS.

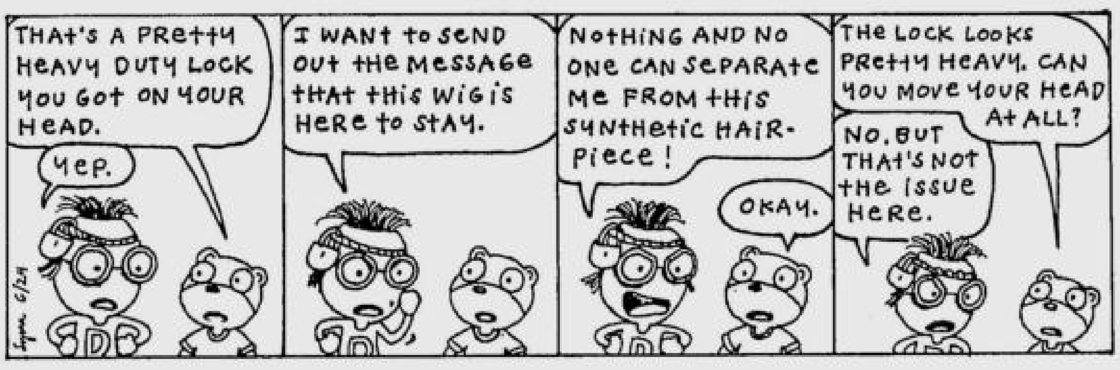
MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG


I HEAR A LOT OF TALK ABOUT IT ON TV
...BUT THERE NEVER SEEMS TO BE A WATER SHORTAGE AT OUR HOUSE!
6-24

BABY BLUES
BY JERRY SCOTT


I REALLY WANT A CANOPY BED!
ZOE, THOSE THINGS COST A FORTUNE!
BUT I R-E-E-E-A-LLY WANT ONE.
I'M SORRY, SWEETHEART. WE JUST CAN'T AFFORD IT RIGHT NOW.
MONEY DOESN'T GROW ON TREES, YOU KNOW.
I KNOW THAT! I'M NOT A BABY!
SO WHERE DOES IT GROW?
IN ATM MACHINES, I THINK.
KIRKMAN & SCOTT

ATOMO AND WEBOY
BY LYRA GARCELLANO


THAT'S A PRETTY HEAVY DUTY LOCK YOU GOT ON YOUR HEAD.
YEP.
I WANT TO SEND OUT THE MESSAGE THAT THIS WIG IS HERE TO STAY.
NOTHING AND NO ONE CAN SEPARATE ME FROM THIS SYNTHETIC HAIR-PIECE!
OKAY.
THE LOCK LOOKS PRETTY HEAVY. CAN YOU MOVE YOUR HEAD AT ALL?
NO. BUT THAT'S NOT THE ISSUE HERE.

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Your love life and your emotional world are important to you. (You love to be in love.) You appreciate art, music and literature. You also appreciate the subtle nuances in human relations. You like to share ideas and organize information. Expect to have more solitude in the year ahead as you study or learn new things.
Birthdate of: Frances McDormand, actress; Selma Blair, actress; Ted Shackelford, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today you have to guard your Aries temper. (You know who you are.) Arguments about politics, religion and the media might take place. Chill out.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Power struggles about possessions, shared responsibilities and the joint ownership of something are likely. This is not the day to go toe-to-toe with anyone. It's all about ego.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You must definitely avoid intense discussions with partners today. Power struggles are practically inevitable. But nothing is gained on a day like this. These discussions simply encourage distrust.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is an excellent day to get to the bottom of things. You will not stop until you get the answers you're looking for. Your research skills are superb.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): This is a good day for encounters with counselors, psychologists or anybody who can help you tap into hidden information. Discussions with others might reveal something about you.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): It's easy to become involved in a conflict of wills with someone today—especially authority figures, bosses or parents. Be careful that these do not grow into the cause of smoldering resentment in the future.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): There is no point in trying to persuade others of your beliefs. Similarly, you do not have to agree with someone who is trying to do this to you. Just let well enough alone for today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): This is a classic day for all kinds of propaganda and indoctrination. Be careful not to get talked into something you don't really believe in. You have a mind of your own.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Compulsive and obsessive feelings can trigger dangerous discussions with partners today. Don't even go there. This kind of talk is not particularly helpful to anyone, and you know it.

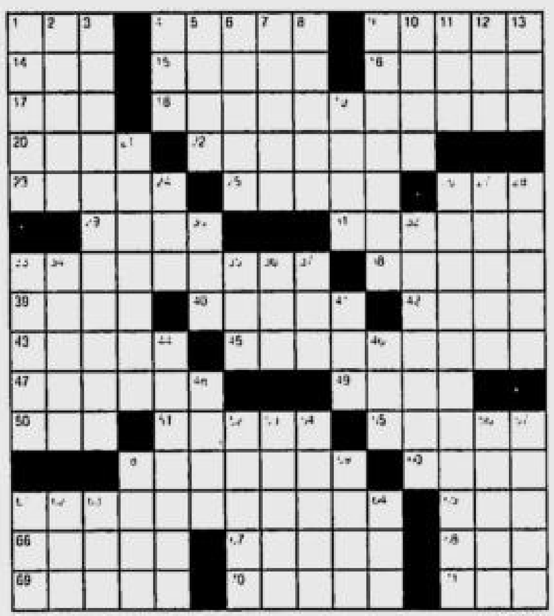
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Don't be pushy at work today. Instead, use your energy to research and solve puzzles. You have a mind like a steel trap right now.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Avoid power struggles with children. Teach them that logic and proper conduct are the basis for sound decisions.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): You might be obsessed with a particular idea today. It could prevent anything else from entering your mind. Sometimes this is useful—but generally not.

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Bat wood
4 Judges' garb
9 Kitchen appliance
14 Garden sphere
15 Balbo or Calvino
16 Western resort lake
17 Appropriate
18 Maryland home of Washington College
20 Webber musical
22 Ripken's team
23 Select few
25 Alabama town
26 Chatter
29 Cupid
31 1998 Masters winner
33 Vital
38 Pigpens
39 Ear part
40 Yellow-fever mosquito
42 Noun-forming suffix
43 Touches against
45 Traveler's oases
47 More succinct
49 Grappler's goals
50 Unit of work
51 Extremely dry
55 Ship's crane
58 Old Blue Eyes
60 Parasites on people
61 East Tennessee State town
65 Sass
66 Monks' leader
67 Greek letter
68 Spike or Peggy
69 Cat calls
70 Maple product
71 Bard's before



By Eugene R. Puffenberger
Houston, TX
6/24/03

DOWN
1 Swiftly
2 Flower part
3 Location of Southern Miss
4 Singer Ocasek
5 Holy Roman emperor
6 Max and Buddy
7 Borden's spokes-cow
8 Yuccalike plant
9 Little rivers
10 Makes lace
11 Ah, I see!
12 Pledge
13 Post-dusk
19 Ticklish Muppet
21 Wall and Basin
24 Untold centuries
26 Florida city
27 Betel palm
28 Grounds
30 RR stop
32 Everlasting
33 Please mightily
34 Like a judge?
35 Comparative suffix
36 Citrus drink
37 Brown or Paul
41 Indy 500 sponsor
44 People with a gender bias
46 Assist
48 City near Tahoe
52 Talks wildly
53 Restless
54 Town official, of yore
56 More aloof
57 Plains tent
58 Winter fall
59 Westernmost of the Aleutians
61 Tie-up
62 Recognition from Eliz.
63 SHO competition
64 Engage in jabber

Monday's Puzzle Solved

C	A	P	S	■	T	E	A	S	■	A	G	R	E	E
O	S	L	O	■	I	R	M	A	■	T	R	O	P	E
W	E	A	L	■	G	R	A	N	D	H	O	T	E	L
L	A	Z	I	E	R	■	■	S	E	E	T	H	E	S
■	■	A	D	V	I	C	E	■	F	I	T	■	■	■
I	N	S	E	A	S	O	N	■	I	S	O	B	A	R
D	O	U	P	■	■	O	C	T	E	T	■	A	M	I
O	B	I	■	U	S	E	L	E	S	S	■	T	U	G
L	E	T	■	P	A	E	A	N	■	■	I	E	S	H
S	L	E	I	G	H	■	S	O	M	E	R	S	E	T
■	■	■	N	R	A	■	P	R	E	L	I	M	■	■
P	L	A	C	A	R	D	■	■	A	D	R	O	I	T
H	O	L	I	D	A	Y	I	N	N	■	E	T	T	U
E	L	A	T	E	■	A	C	N	E	■	M	E	E	T
W	A	N	E	D	■	D	E	E	R	■	E	L	M	S

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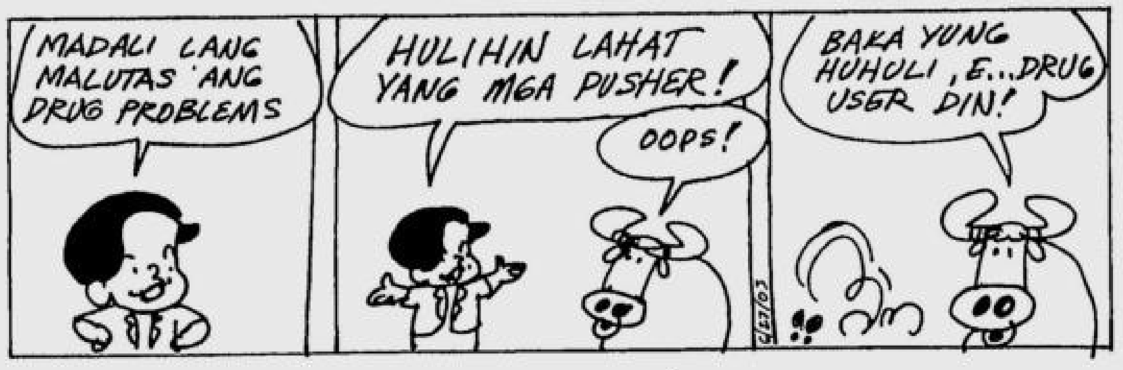
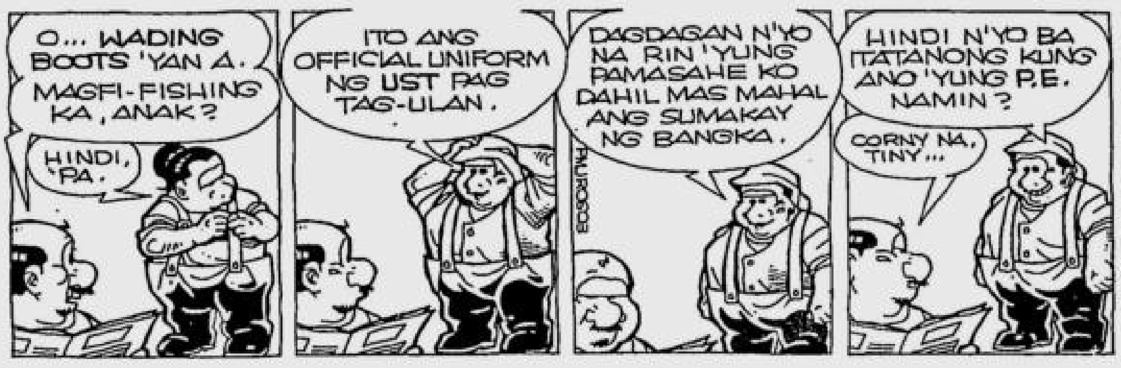
6/24/03

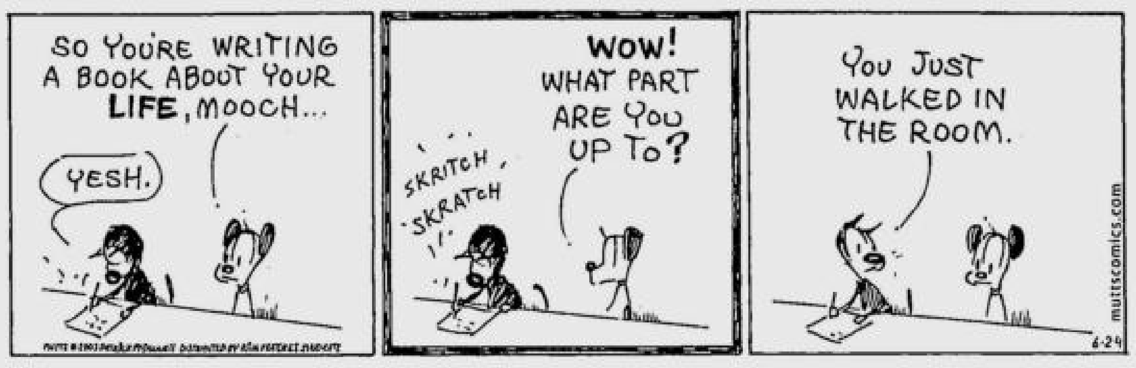
A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA


MADALI LANG MALUTAS ANG DRUG PROBLEMS
HULIHIN LAHAT YANG MGA PUSHER!
OOPS!
BAKA YUNG HUHULI, E...DRUG USER DIN!
6/27/03

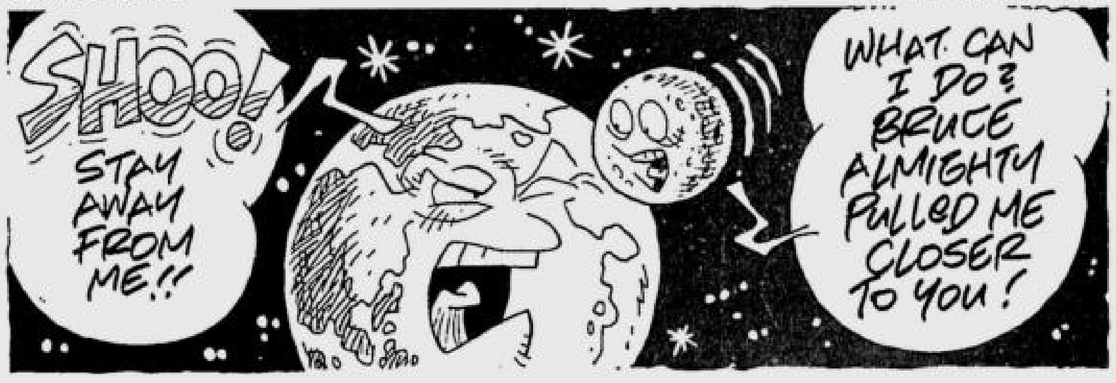
PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR


O... WADING BOOTS 'YAN A. MAGFI-FISHING KA, ANAK?
HINDI, 'PA.
ITO ANG OFFICIAL UNIFORM NG UST PAG TAG-ULAN.
DAGDAGAN N'YO NA RIN 'YUNG PAMASAHE KO DAHIL MAS MAHAL ANG SUMAKAY NG BANGKA.
HINDI N'YO BA ITATANONG KUNG ANO 'YUNG P.E. NAMIN?
CORNY NA, TINY...

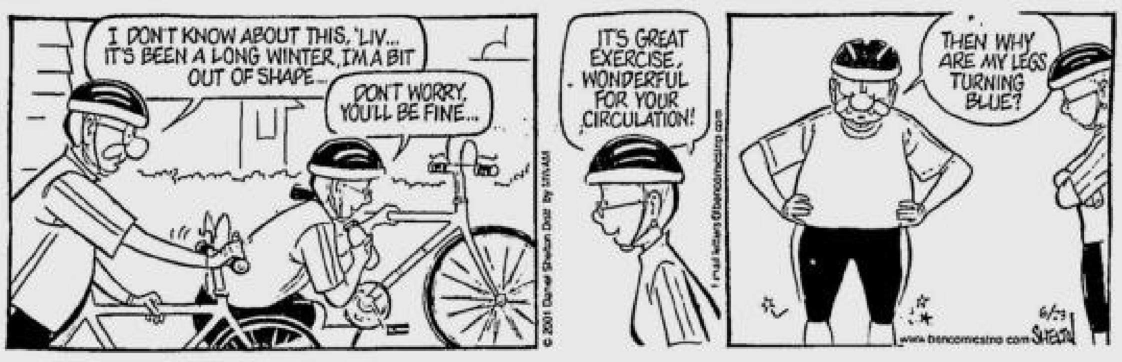
MUTTS
BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SO YOU'RE WRITING A BOOK ABOUT YOUR LIFE, MOOCH...
YESH.
SKRITCH SKRATCH
WOW! WHAT PART ARE YOU UP TO?
YOU JUST WALKED IN THE ROOM.
muttscomics.com
6-24

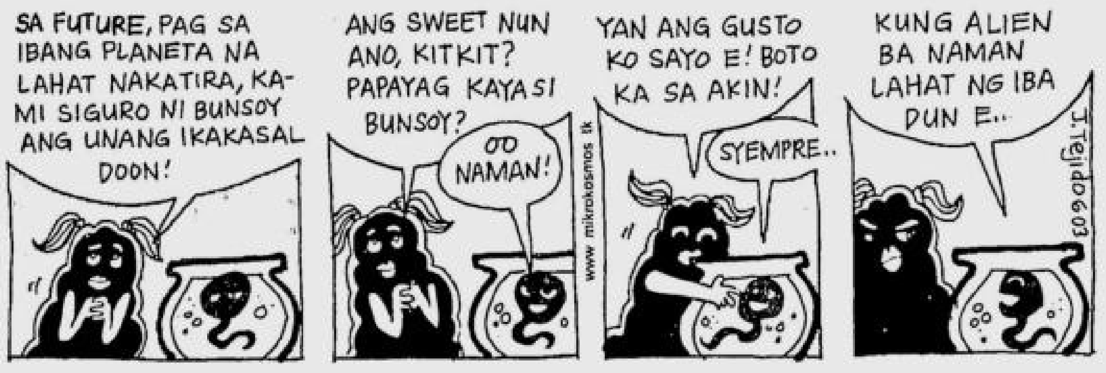
DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS


SHOO! STAY AWAY FROM ME!!
WHAT CAN I DO? BRUCE ALMIGHTY PULLED ME CLOSER TO YOU!

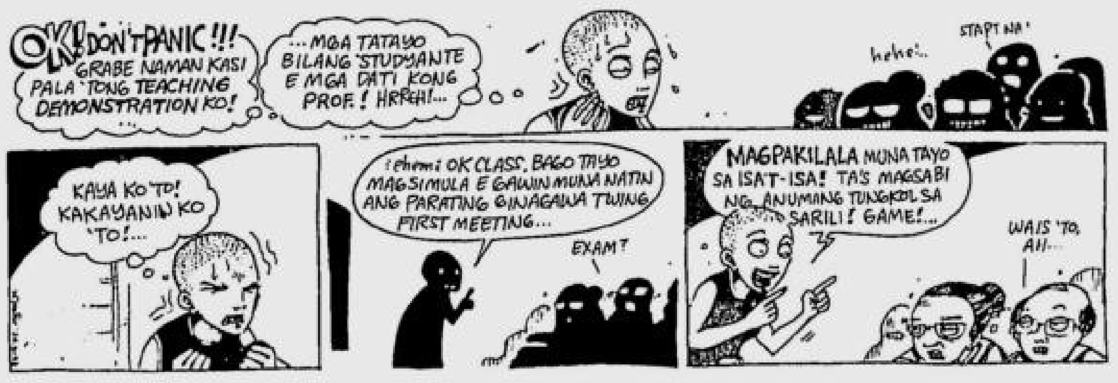
BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON


I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THIS, 'LIV... IT'S BEEN A LONG WINTER, I'M A BIT OUT OF SHAPE...
DON'T WORRY, YOU'LL BE FINE...
IT'S GREAT EXERCISE, WONDERFUL FOR YOUR CIRCULATION!
THEN WHY ARE MY LEGS TURNING BLUE?
6/23

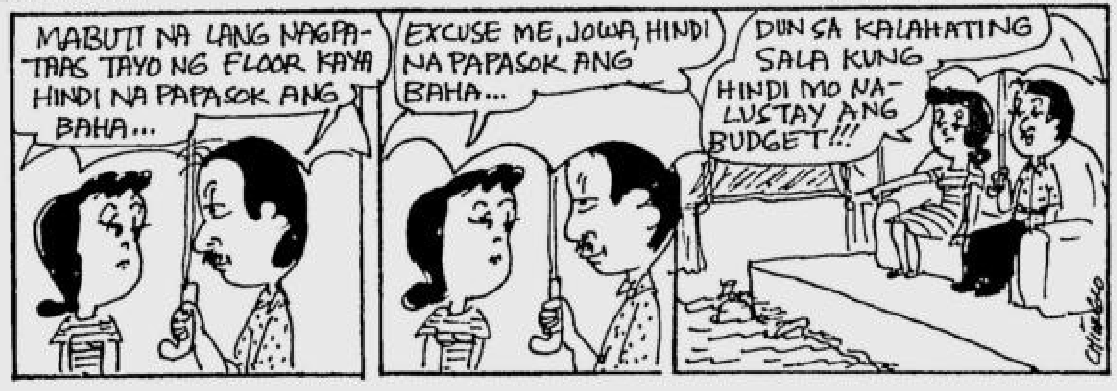
MIKROKOSMOS
BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


SA FUTURE, PAG SA IBANG PLANETA NA LAHAT NAKATIRA, KAMI SIGURO NI BUNSOY ANG UNANG IKAKASAL DOON!
ANG SWEET NUN ANO, KITKIT? PAPAYAG KAYA SI BUNSOY?
OO NAMAN!
YAN ANG GUSTO KO SAYO E! BOTO KA SA AKIN!
SYEMPRE..
KUNG ALIEN BA NAMAN LAHAT NG IBA DUN E..
www.mikrokosmos.tk
J. Tejido603

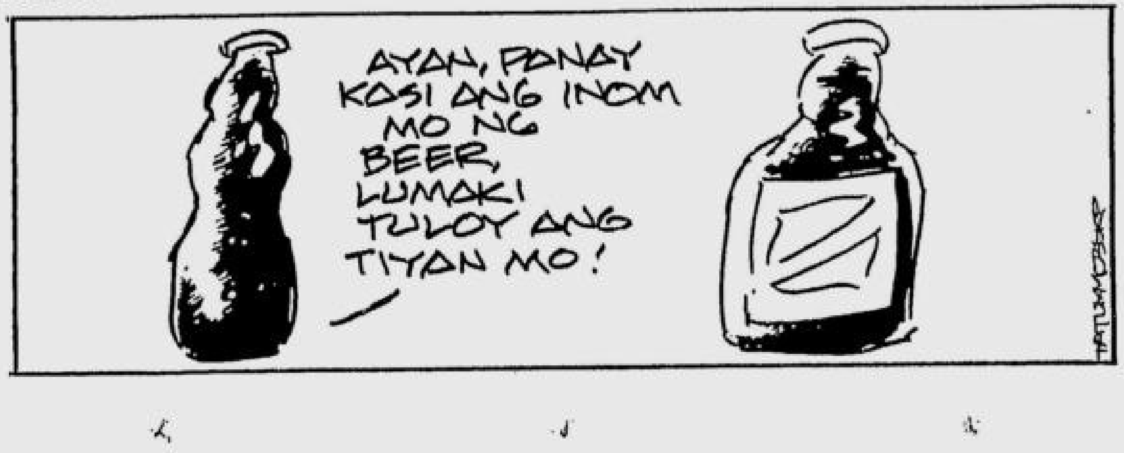
KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA


OK! DON'T PANIC!!! GRABE NAMAN KASI PALA 'TONG TEACHING DEMONSTRATION KO!
...MGA TATAYO BILANG STUDYANTE E MGA DATI KONG PROF.! HRRGH!...
hehe!..
START NA!
KAYA KO 'TO! KAKAYANIN KO 'TO!...
ehem! OK CLASS. BAGO TAYO MAGSIMULA E GAWIN MUNA NATIN ANG PARATING GINAGAWA TWING FIRST MEETING...
EXAM?
MAGPAKILALA MUNA TAYO SA ISA'T-ISA! TA'S MAGSABI NG ANUMANG TUNGKOL SA SARILI! GAME!...
WAIS 'TO, AH...

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

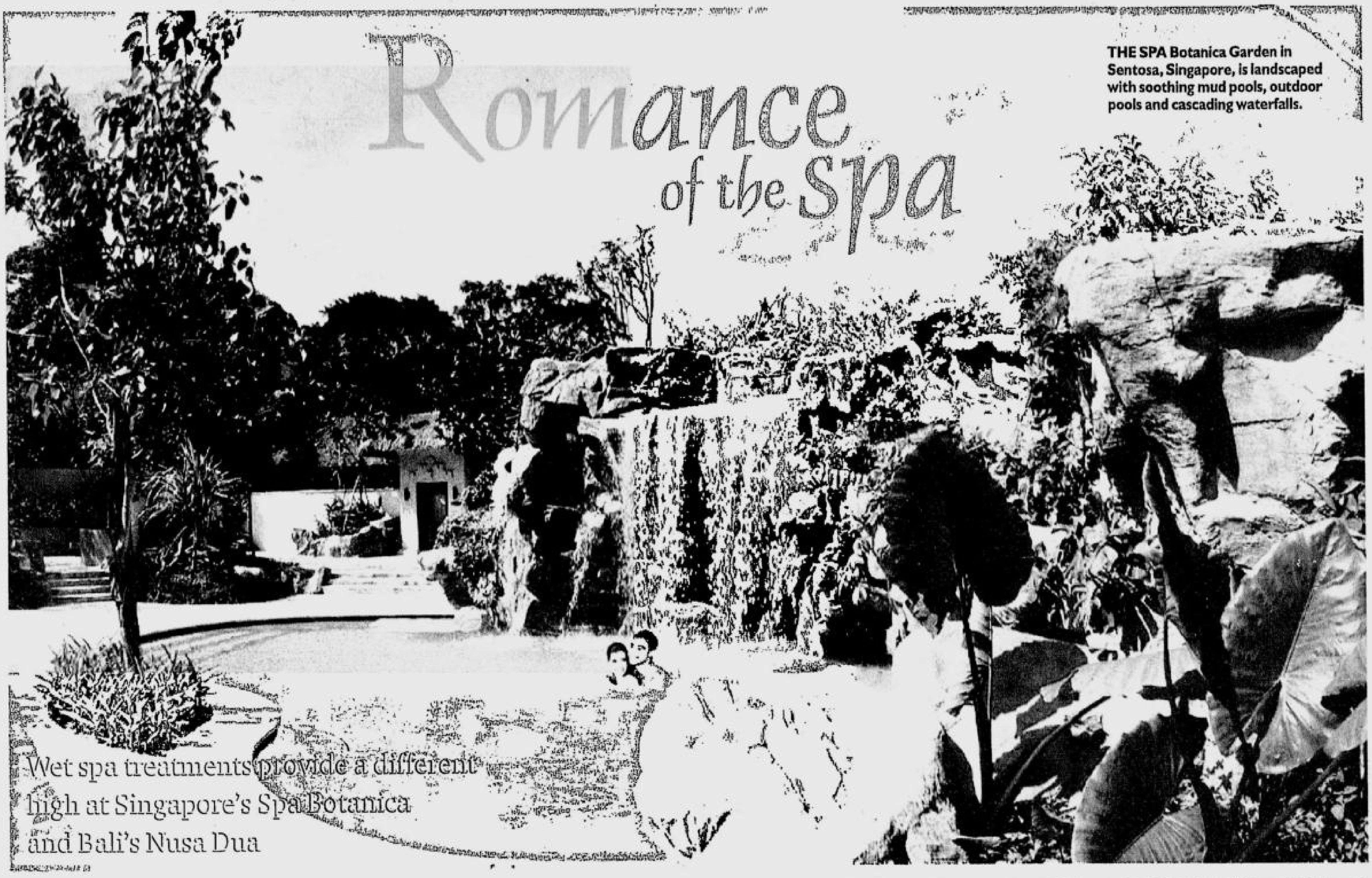

MABUTI NA LANG NAGPATAAS TAYO NG FLOOR KAYA HINDI NA PAPASOK ANG BAHA...
EXCUSE ME, JOWA, HINDI NA PAPASOK ANG BAHA...
DUN SA KALAHATING SALA KUNG HINDI MO NALUSTAY ANG BUDGET!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


AYAN, PANAY KASI ANG INOM MO NG BEER, LUMAKI TULOY ANG TIYAN MO!
TATUM

Romance of the Spa

Wet spa treatments provide a different high at Singapore's Spa Botanica and Bali's Nusa Dua



THE SPA Botanica Garden in Sentosa, Singapore, is landscaped with soothing mud pools, outdoor pools and cascading waterfalls.

By Rowena C. Burgos

IF your man's idea of a treat is to go to the barber instead of using his own clippers to groom himself and cushion the effects of age, it may be time to introduce him to the wonderful world of full-service salons and day and destination spas.

And what can be more relaxing than you and your man indulging in some luxurious pampering? It may not be easy to get him to see it your way, but it's worth the effort.

Those who are looking for some sweet escapes and just-as-sweet deals should turn to Singapore and Indonesia for some end-of-summer relaxation.

Day-spa packages usually include manicure, pedicure and/or massage services for both men and women. Destination-spa packages include accommodations, meals, use of spa and fitness facilities and spa treatment.

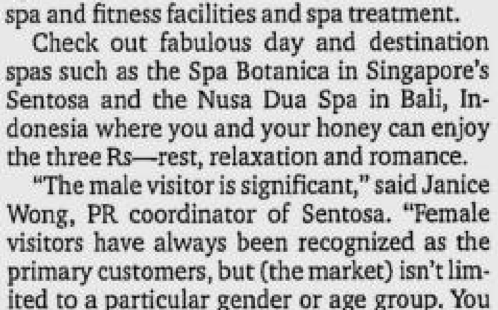
Check out fabulous day and destination spas such as the Spa Botanica in Singapore's Sentosa and the Nusa Dua Spa in Bali, Indonesia where you and your honey can enjoy the three Rs—rest, relaxation and romance.

"The male visitor is significant," said Janice Wong, PR coordinator of Sentosa. "Female visitors have always been recognized as the primary customers, but (the market) isn't limited to a particular gender or age group. You have to have unique treatments that people respond to and truly enjoy."

"While the classic woman's massage still is the most requested for treatment, services for men and couples also are being requested with more frequency," said Julita Chandra, marketing communications manager of Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa.

Stylish sanctuary

Spa Botanica is Singapore's first garden destination spa. Set on the grounds of the Sentosa Resort & Spa at 2 Bukit Manis Road, Sentosa, Spa Botanica's 14 indoor treatment spaces are named after local spices and its six outdoor treatment pavilions are named after popular local flowers such as frangipani, hibiscus, jasmine, orchid, murraya and water lily.



THE THREE-HOUR Singapore flower ritual is offered at Spa Botanica.

GALAXY steam bath at Sentosa's Spa Botanica

Guests can enjoy a day trip or extend their spa experience with a three-day, five-day or seven-day stay at the resort. With its state-of-the-art facilities such as mud pools and float pools, Galaxy steam baths, the spa balances modern amenities with traditional beauty and health practices.

Spa Botanica also has two labyrinths, which inspire guests to make meditative walks.

The spa also has a private outdoor deck, spacious treatment areas and a hydro-bath that cater to specific needs of couples and individuals. At the Royal Suite is the King's Bath, a 450-kg bath hand-tooled from cast bronze to retain the warmth of milk, floral or herbal bath.

Each Spa Botanica treatment, such as the Singapore Flower Ritual and Island Delights, is designed with the region's rich botanical resources.

THE SENTOSA'S Two-gether Day package ends in the King's Bath, complete with a sprinkling of flower petals and [illegible] of champagne.

Pleasure in paradise

The tranquility of Nusa Dua Spa in Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia spreads over 5,000 sq m of lush gardens and rejuvenating pools.

The spa complex includes plunge pools, aromatic saunas, cool dips, steam rooms, jacuzzi, 25-meter lap pool with underwater piped-in music, individual massage rooms, separate male and female lockers, spa villa, private spa pavilions and beauty salon. For couples, the spa villa features an outdoor pool with sun lounges, sauna, whirlpool and Swiss shower with steam bath. Couples can also take massage or body treatments in total privacy.

A sports center has facilities for physical fitness.

A BALINESE massage at Nusa Dua Beach Hotel & Spa leaves one's body and mind relaxed and invigorated.

The body and skin oils used at Nusa Dua Spa are based on blends of essential oils, flowers, spices, herbs and plants, which have been used by Indonesian women for centuries.

Spa treatments include single massage, traditional body treatments, facial treatments and special packages. The most common spa package is The Ritual, a combination of foot massage and traditional oil hair treatment. The Balinese massage is the favorite for single massage technique, and it leaves the body and mind invigorated. The Javanese Lulur, which softens and exfoliates skin using turmeric, sandalwood, herbs and spices, is also a favorite wet treatment.

Leisure vacation

Spas are becoming more popular due to the harried pace of modern life.

"Spas are becoming an essential part of a modern leisure vacation," Wong said. "People want to relax from the daily pressures of work during a vacation. The spa offers massages and treatments that are very relaxing."

People want different experiences.

"When you go into a spa, it has to be an experience," Chandra said. "When you are in a resort setting, you want that pampering effect, that feeling of being taken care of."

According to Wong, consumers are much more savvy now about the spa experience. "They want a place where they can 'get it all,' which often includes having a spa treatment."

People expect different things from a spa experience, says Gede Parmita, Nusa Dua's director of sales, so it's important for clients to do their homework before choosing a spa.

While spas traditionally have been seen as places for pampering, more and more people are looking for ways to deal with stress and improve their physical and mental well-being.

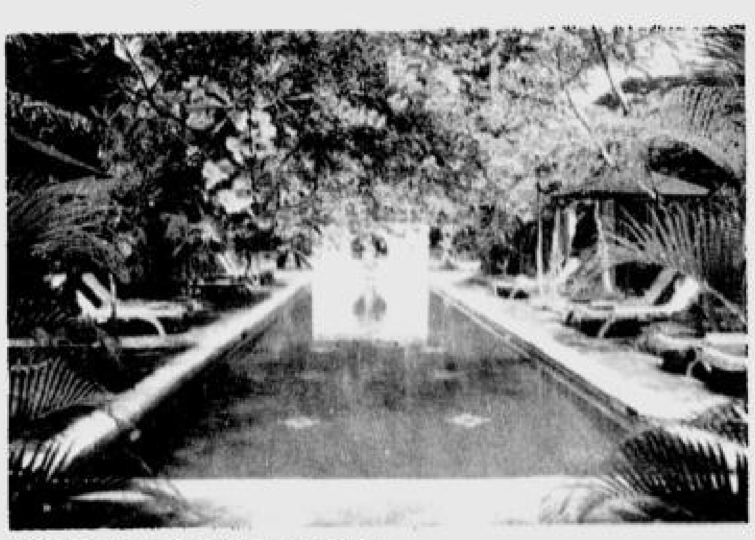
"Consumers are seeking the spa experience as a way to stay healthy and feel good about their body, mind and spirit," Parmita said.

The Philippine media tours to Singapore and Indonesia were sponsored by Singapore Airlines and the Singapore Tourism Board.

Singapore Airlines flies to Singapore three times daily all the way to Bali, Indonesia. Call 751-5151/52 or 810-4960 local 4005/6.

E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph

THE NUSA Dua spa villa is a perfect hideaway for couples.



NUSA Dua's 25-meter spa lap pool

Experiments prove plants have feelings

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

THE CURRENT controversy over the removal by the Metro Manila Development Authority of old trees along Katipunan Street in Quezon City to ease traffic congestion has focused public attention on the importance of trees to human life on earth.

It is now common knowledge that plants and trees serve living creatures in multifarious ways. They prevent floods and soil erosion, give off oxygen, provide food and shelter for both animals and man and a source of medicine to fight all kinds of diseases.

But neither the environmentalists nor the average modern individual is aware of the hidden life of plants nor of their extra sensory powers.

It was the American polygraph expert, Cleve Backster, who first brought up the incredible idea that plants are aware of their environment and have rudimentary emotions or feelings. Subsequently, he proved that hypothesis beyond doubt. He discovered that plants reacted to the death of other living creatures even though the doomed victims were not in the same room.

His original experiment consisted of attaching polygraph electrodes on the leaves of philodendron plants. In another room, Backster set up a machine that would dump live brine shrimp at random into boiling water. As a control the machine occasionally would dump water without shrimp to see if the plants in the other room simply reacted to the mechanical process rather than to the death of the shrimp.

To ensure that there is no human intervention, the experiment was conducted without any researcher in the laboratory. Everything was done automatically. One polygraph was not attached to any plant as a control to see if its readings would be different from the three polygraphs attached to the plants. Once the machines began to operate, experimenters left the building, only to return later to verify the results.

Many people are not aware of the hidden life of plants or of their extra sensory powers

And what were these results? "The plants in separate rooms connected to separate polygraphs," reported John Whitman in "The Psychic Power of Plants" (published by new American Library, New York, 1974), "responded to the death of the brine shrimp by showing acute stress curves similar to those shown by humans under intense pressure—either mental or physical."

Furthermore, according to Backster, "The plants gave no response to the dumping of water which contained no shrimp at all." It shows the shrimp somehow was able to communicate to the plants in the other room its "death signals," much like a person involved in a fatal accident is able to communicate telepathically his death to loved one miles away from the scene of the accident.

Plant identifies killer

In another fascinating and rather incredible experiment, Backster was able to identify a plant killer through his polygraph machine. The plants pointed to the real killer by reacting wildly to him.

Here is how Whitman described that classic experiment in the book mentioned earlier: "One of six students was chosen to kill a plant in a room with only one plant present. Neither Backster nor the five other students knew who the killer would be. The chosen student sneaked into the room with two plants and destroyed one of them. Backster later asked the students to come into the room one at a time.

"Each of the innocent students came into the room and the plant showed no reaction to any of them. But when the guilty student came into the room, the plant seemed to go into a frenzy which showed up as wild activity on the polygraph tracings."

Other experiments conducted by different researchers showed that plants responded positively to classical music and very badly to rock or heavy metal music. They also responded well to words of encouragement and positive emotions from people around them. Maybe that's why the fig tree withered and died when Christ cursed it for not bearing fruits, as related in the New Testament.

City dwellers have not given much importance to plants. Maybe it's because they are not aware of their importance and sensitivity. As the above scientific experiments have shown, plants and trees have emotions and even psychic powers. Maybe we should tell MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando and his over-enthusiastic agents that plants are "human," too!

Note

Several readers have written me asking where in the Philippines to find the "Nag Hammadi Library" edited by James M. Robinson. I did not expect that this book would generate so much interest.

Unfortunately I do not know where this book can be bought. My copy was given to me as a gift from a friend a long time ago. All I know is that it is published in 1990 by Harper San Francisco, a division of Harper Collins Publishers whose address is 10 East 53rd St., New York, N.Y. 1022, USA.

The other book I've read on the same topic is "The Gnostic Gospels" by Dr. Elaine Pagels, published in 1979 by Random House in New York. I don't have the exact address.

Please write directly to the above publishers for more info on these books.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City. Tel. nos.: 810-7245 or 892-6806 or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my DZMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I would like to enroll my stepchild under my MEDICard HMO program. Will she be covered?

Yes, she can be enrolled provided that you submit legal documents proving that she is now your dependent (such as your marriage contract with her natural parent). You must also ascertain that she is within the eligibility age, follows the hierarchy of enrollment and is enrolled within the prescribed grace period.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Obstetrics and Gynecology is the chosen field of specialization of **Dr. Marie Claudette R. Mendiola.** Dr. Mendiola, also known as "Doktora Claudette" joined MEDICard in 1996 as one of the retainer doctors at its H.O. clinic. She finished Medicine at the University of Santo Tomas and her specialization training at the Seamen's Hospital. Members may visit her for consultations at her clinic, Room 232 of the Delos Santos Medical Center, E. Rodriguez Ave., Q.C. Her clinic is open every Mondays, 12 to 3 PM, Wednesdays, 3 to 6 PM and on Saturdays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Meet **Dr. Glenn V. Sembrano**, our accredited medical provider at Medical City General Hospital. Doc Glenn is in the field of Pediatrics. He finished his degree in Medicine at FEU-Dr. Nicanor Reyes Medical Foundation and his residency training for his specialization at Makati Medical Center. Members may visit him for consultations at the Medical City-MEDICard satellite clinic every Mondays and Fridays from 1 to 5 in the afternoon.

At the Santa Clara de Montefalco Hospital in Meycauayan, Bulacan, MEDICard members may seek the services of **Dr. Hiram Fong.** Dr. Fong, who is in the field of orthopedics, is a graduate of Medicine of the University of Santo Tomas. He finished his residency for his specialization at the UST Hospital and later chose to subspecialize in Spine Surgery and Pediatric Orthopedics which he finished at the University of Hong Kong. For consultations, members may visit him at his clinic from Mondays to Fridays, 3 to 4 PM and on Saturdays from 10 AM to 12 noon.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at feedback@medicardphils.com.

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ISO 9002

You don't always have to take medicine when you don't feel well

HOME REMEDIES

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Home remedies to relieve common ailments

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

THE LANDSCAPE of wellness, due to health and medical breakthroughs, is ever-changing, expanding and evolving. But there are some remedies and practices that have been found useful through the years. Here are some of them:

12 tips for fighting the common cold

1. Drink plenty of fluids like water and juices.
2. Rest.
3. Keep warm.
4. Use a salt-water rinse or sea-salt bath daily (2 cups salt, one bath tub of hot water, or 1 cup salt in one big pail of water).
5. Gargle with warm water and salt three times a day.
6. Do a nasal flush three times a day (use a syringe without a needle). Mix two pinches of salt in one cup of warm water. With the syringe, flush your sinus cavities with the saline solution. It will clear your nose instantly.
7. Take 1,000 mg of Vitamin C, morning and evening (with meals).
8. Stop smoking.
9. Avoid alcoholic beverages.
10. Maintain a positive attitude.
11. Prepare an inhalation. Place three drops of eucalyptus oil in a bowl of hot water. Cover with a towel and inhale from towel opening.
12. Avoid all dairy products.

Constipation:

The frequency of moving stool varies from individual to individual, ranging from once a day to three times a week. Occasional constipation is not serious, but longer delays and any change in the color of stools may be serious (it could indicate, for example, intestinal cancer, hypothyroidism).

Common causes of constipation are lack of exercise, change of diet, stress, ignoring the urge to pass stool, hemorrhoids, insufficient fiber and water in the diet.

Remedies:

1. Grandma's cure: Apply warm castor oil over your belly. Place a hot water bottle/compress over your tummy for 15 minutes. Relax. Do this twice daily, morning and evening.
2. Walk every day for 20 minutes.
3. Drink a glass of prune juice.
4. Add fiber to your food or drink.
5. Avoid food that can harden your stools (apple, *latundan* bananas).
6. Drink 8-10 glasses of water daily.
7. Add good bacteria, acidophilus. Take yoghurt with live bacteria.

Bruising easily:

1. Apply tincture of arnica or hirudoid.
2. Put ice immediately on the affected area.
3. Apply olive oil and rub raw garlic on the swelling (except if it is on the face). Cover with a hanky overnight.
4. Increase Vitamin C to 1,000 mg a day.

Nagging cough:

1. Stop smoking (it could be smoker's cough).
2. Follow all the tips to relieve colds.
3. Rub eucalyptus oil on your chest and back.
4. Have a lemon enema (½ tsp fresh lemon juice in a pint of warm water).
5. See your doctor if cough persists.

Pre-menstrual syndrome (PMS):

1. Avoid salty food, cold beverages, caffeine in all forms (coffee, chocolate, black tea), alcohol.
2. Increase intake of certain vegetables/fruits like strawberries, watermelon (eat the seeds, too!), asparagus, watercress.
3. Take figs, dates, bananas, potatoes, peanuts, tomatoes (these are rich in potassium).
4. Try *dong quai* (also known as the female ginseng, it helps to improve circulation, regulate liver function and help remove excess fluid/water from the system).
5. Put warm compress on the lower belly.
6. Rest.
7. Sip an herbal tea like chamomile or ginger.

Blood pressure—high or low:

1. Slow down. Relax. Sit in one corner and be quiet. Meditate.
2. Talk slower (fast talkers don't breathe properly, which can result in elevated blood pressure).
3. Lose weight, if you are overweight.
4. Reduce sodium/salt and increase potassium in your diet (bananas, tomatoes...).
5. Reduce sugar intake.
6. Exercise regularly.
7. Avoid stress.
8. Increase calcium intake to 1,000 mg daily, magnesium to 500 mg daily, and vitamin E to 800 mg daily.
9. Hypotensives (those with low blood pressure) can benefit from kelp, 1-3 tablets daily.

Jet lag

When in flight, avoid gas-inducing foods because intestinal gas expands at high altitudes. Avoid beans, legumes and sweet yam. Avoid alcoholic beverages because alcohol destroys vitamin B complex, a great jet-lag fighter. Drink water every hour you are in the air. Take 50 mg vitamin B, morning and evening, during a flight. After 2-3 hours, take 1 mg melatonin, which can help you sleep for 3-6 hours during a flight. If you feel rundown, increase your Vitamin C.

Leg pains/cramps:

1. Improve circulation by walking, three times a week.
2. Increase calcium intake. Take a calcium drink daily or low-fat calcium enriched milk.
3. Take 400 mg Vitamin E daily.

Skin rashes:

1. Mix 1 tablespoon of cornstarch (*gawgaw*) in 3 tablespoons of cold water. Apply on the affected area to bring down swelling and remove the heat from the skin.
2. Pour 2 drops of olive oil and rub gently on the skin.
3. Rub fresh aloe vera (*sabila*). It sometimes helps, too.

Stomach ache:

For instant relief, take a hot cup of ginger tea. Place a hot bag on your tummy or simply, place your right hand (the giving hand, which emits energy) on your tummy for 5 minutes. It is better if the hand that warms your tummy belongs to your beloved because you don't only get warmth but love, too!

An affirmation

Imagine you are on a mountain top, the whole expanse of earth beneath your feet. The sky crowns you and the sun energizes you. Repeat three times: "I am on top of the world and in top form."

Love and light!

Excerpted from Health Today's Health Guide and Earl Mindell's "Vitamin Bible."

Final call to PMAP members, register now for the Nestle Nutren's "Total Wellness Workshop" with Jimmy Licauco and Cory Quirino in July at Dusit Hotel Nikko. Call PMAP at 726-1581/1588.

Slimming teas . . .

From page D1

Do not steep the tea longer than is recommended because this can make the effect stronger.

The FDA also warns that you should seek medical attention if you experience persistent diarrhea, abdominal cramps or other bowel problems while you are using herbal laxatives.

The bottom line is that even prominent herbalists like the late Varro Tyler, author of "The Honest Herbal," do not recommend the daily use of senna or any other herbal stimulant laxative either for weight loss or for constipation.

For more information, go to www.tinajuanfitness and search for "Do Fat Burners Work? Part Three: Slimming Teas" and "How Exercise Affects Fertility"